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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

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21 November 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 21 November 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Consumer Credit Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I have, together with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, published the Government's response to the consumer credit aspects of the consumer credit and personal insolvency review, "Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt", launched jointly by BIS and HM Treasury. My statement of 19 July, *Official Report*, columns 89-90WS, provided the Government's response on the insolvency aspects of the review.

The response builds on a number of coalition commitments to help consumers make better financial decisions when borrowing money and deals specifically with:

- unfair bank charges;
- introductory discounts when taking out a store card;
- interest rate caps on credit and store cards; and other consumer credit issues, including high-cost credit.

Our vision is twofold. First, we want all consumers to be empowered to make better choices for themselves. Consumers should be free to borrow if that is what they decide is in their best interest. It is not for the Government to pass judgment on whether a particular product is good or bad but, in line with the coalition principles of freedom, fairness and responsibility, we want to provide consumers with the tools they need to make informed decisions. Secondly, we want to ensure there is a safe and fair regulatory framework for both credit and personal insolvency. These frameworks must protect vulnerable consumers, particularly those at risk of falling into or those already in financial difficulty and drive rogue companies out of the market. Responding to consumer concerns about the lack of control and transparency over bank charges, the Government have driven forward a voluntary agreement which will apply to all full-facility current accounts offered by the major personal current account providers. Under the new agreement, over 85% of personal current account customers will benefit from measures to make charges for unarranged overdrafts clearer, fairer and more manageable.

This will include an option for consumers to receive alerts when their balance is low so that they can take action to avoid a charge; consumers will know by what time they need to make a payment into their account to avoid charges; and they will no longer be charged for going over their limit by a small amount. Balance alerts will be available from March 2012, with full implementation of the other measures by March 2013 at the latest.

These measures come in addition to commitments already made by the industry to increase transparency, including annual statements detailing charges incurred so that consumers can see how much their account costs them over the year, and from September 2013 a new guaranteed switching service which will give customers the confidence to switch accounts quickly, safely and without hassle. This will mean that consumers can make sure that they are getting a good deal from their bank. Together, all these measures will provide a powerful way for consumers to hold their banks to account.

On store cards, respondents to the review were most concerned about customers being tempted into expensive credit by retailers offering discounts on their purchases at the time they take out a store card. Following negotiations with the Government, industry has agreed to end this practice as well as introducing other measures to improve the way store cards are offered, including a good practice training scheme and a ban on direct commission for sales staff.

The Government will not be introducing a cap on interest rates on credit and store cards. Following the review, the evidence showed that a cap would not be in the best interest of consumers as pricing some consumers out of the market could force individuals to seek unregulated or high-cost credit.

What was clear from the review were the real concerns around the high-cost credit market and the impact that using this type of credit can have on vulnerable consumers. To address these concerns, the Government are pleased to have appointed Bristol university's Personal Finance Research Centre (PFRC) to carry out research into the impact of introducing a variable cap on the total cost of high-cost credit that can be charged in the short to medium-term high-cost credit market. The Government have also started negotiations with industry to introduce improved consumer protections in codes of practice for payday lenders and other instant credit providers. In addition, the Government are working to improve access to credit unions which can provide a real alternative to high-cost credit.

Positive action from industry to address real consumer concerns has wider-reaching benefits. By working with industry we can make changes that improve things for consumers far more quickly than legislating. As we stated in the call for evidence, we will regulate where necessary but our strong preference is to promote more responsible corporate and consumer behaviour through greater transparency, competition and by harnessing the insights of behavioural economics.

Finally this response completes the announcement we made in July when we set out additional measures to assist consumers in difficulty, including a consultation on improving access for bankrupts to basic bank accounts (published on 17 November) and working with industry to improve standards in debt management plans. In addition, on 7 November we published a consultation seeking views on reforms to the route into bankruptcy (and compulsory winding up) to streamline the process and to ensure that the court focuses on dispute resolution.

The package of measures announced in this response will deliver real benefits for consumers that can be achieved while minimising the regulatory burdens on business. We are placing copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Tax Avoidance

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government are fully committed to tackling tax avoidance and will take necessary steps to protect the Exchequer and maintain fairness in the tax system.

The Government published "Tackling Tax Avoidance" at Budget 2011 which outlines a more strategic approach to addressing avoidance by placing the emphasis on preventing avoidance before it occurs. By building in sustainable defences to avoidance we will reduce the need for immediate changes to legislation once an avoidance risk has arisen, or for HMRC to challenge avoidance once it has happened.

In December 2010, I asked Graham Aaronson QC to lead a study that would consider whether a general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) could deter and counter tax avoidance, while providing certainty, retaining a tax regime that is attractive to businesses, and minimising costs for businesses and HMRC.

I have now received Mr Aaronson's report and have arranged for it to be published today on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/gaar_final_report_111111.PDF.

Mr Aaronson has recommended a narrowly focused GAAR which should initially apply to the main direct taxes—income tax, capital gains tax, corporation tax, and petroleum revenue tax, as well as national insurance contributions. The report sets out in detail how a GAAR could be introduced, and includes an illustrative draft rule. It also includes a summary of the views of representative bodies in the tax sector.

The Government will consider the report in detail and the extent to which the proposals could add to HMRC's existing legislative and administrative approaches and further reduce levels of tax avoidance. The Government will discuss the implications of the proposed rule with business and tax groups and respond fully at Budget 2012, setting out their plans for further, formal public consultation, if appropriate.

I will place a copy of the report in the Library of the House.

Counter-Terrorism Act (Financial Order)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government have today laid before the House an order under the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 containing a direction requiring UK credit and financial institutions to cease all business with banks incorporated in Iran and their branches and subsidiaries. This means that UK credit and financial institutions are prohibited from entering into transactions or business relationships with these entities and continuing existing transactions and business relationships with them, unless licensed to do so by HM Treasury.

The Treasury is satisfied, as required by the Act, that activity in Iran that facilitates the development or production of nuclear weapons poses a significant risk to the national interests of the United Kingdom. The November board report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the UN body charged with monitoring Iran's activities and ensuring that no nuclear material is being diverted to non-civilian applications) highlights the reasons for the Government's serious and ongoing concerns about Iran's nuclear activities. The IAEA report sets out the agency's concerns about

"possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme".

In particular, the information available to the agency indicates that Iran has carried out the activities that are relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device. The report notes that

"while some of the activities identified have civilian as well as military applications, others are specific to nuclear weapons".

The Government view these developments with the utmost concern.

The case for action is underlined by the recent calls from the Financial Action Task Force for countries to apply effective countermeasures to protect their financial sectors from money laundering and financing of terrorism risks emanating from Iran. The FATF (the global standard setting body for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism) renewed these calls with urgency on 28 October 2011 and noted its particular and exceptional concern about Iran's failure to address the risk of terrorist financing and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system.

In light of these risks to the UK's national interests, I consider it a proportionate response to require the UK financial sector to cease all business relationships and transactions with Iranian banks and their branches and subsidiaries, including the Central Bank of Iran. Iranian banks play a crucial role in providing financial services to individuals and entities within Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes as companies carrying out proliferation activities will typically require banking services. Any Iranian bank is exposed to the risk of being used by proliferators in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Experience under existing UN and EU financial sanctions against Iran demonstrates that targeting individual Iranian banks is not sufficient. Once one bank is targeted, a new one can step into its place.

As they relate to an important global financial centre, UK restrictions will have an impact on the options available to Iranian banks. This will make it more difficult for Iranian banks to utilise the international financial system in support of proliferation-sensitive activities. It will protect the UK financial sector from the risk of unwittingly being used to facilitate activities which support Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. UK action of this nature signals to Iran and the international community that we consider this risk to be significant.

These actions are being taken in co-ordination with other partner countries, who will make their own announcements separately.

Northern Rock plc

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): On 15 June 2011 I announced that I had put Northern Rock plc up for sale.

The bidding process has now finished and on 17 November 2011 I announced the sale of Northern Rock plc to Virgin Money. The Financial Secretary is also updating the House on the sale of Northern Rock plc today.

The deal was reached following an open, transparent and competitive bidding process. It is expected to complete on 1 January 2012, pending European Commission merger clearance and Financial Services Authority approval.

This statement provides full details of the consideration HM Treasury will receive for the sale:

Cash: HM Treasury will receive cash of £747 million on completion and around an expected further £50 million cash in the second quarter of 2012 relating to the net asset value of Northern Rock plc upon completion.

Tier 1 Capital Notes: Virgin Money will issue to HM Treasury on completion Tier 1 Capital Notes with a par value of £150 million and an annual coupon of 10.5%. The terms of these notes have been designed to be compliant with current GENPRU requirements and the expected requirements of forthcoming CRD4 regulations which will implement Basel III guidelines into European law. Accordingly they include features such as principal loss absorption and discretionary interest coupons. Virgin Money has indicated that it intends that these notes would be exchanged, or purchased by the acquirer, upon an Initial Public Offering or sale, without reducing the amount and quality of the firm's capital resources, which would allow HM Treasury to exit its investment.

Additional cash consideration: HM Treasury will receive additional cash consideration payable upon Virgin Money delivering a future profitable Initial Public Offering or sale in the next five years. The maximum payment would be £80 million if this occurred in 2012; £70 million in 2013; and £50 million in 2014 to 2016 inclusive.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Reform

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I am today announcing the publication of "Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England". This strategy sets out the Government's plans to support social mobility and get the housing market—and in particular new house building—moving again.

This is vital for our economic growth—but more importantly, it is essential to the hopes and plans of young people, families and older households across the country. We know we will not achieve this by attempting to control the market from Whitehall. The system of setting top down targets for housing, vast amounts of planning guidance and excessive regulation contributed to the lowest level of house building since the 1920s. House building in 2010-11 was 29% higher compared to 2008-09, and compared to 2009-10, it was 17% higher (103,750 starts in 2010-11; 88,690 in 2009-10, and 80,550 in 2008-09).

The strategy sets out the immediate action we are taking to get the housing market moving again.

We are launching a new build indemnity scheme to provide support to potential home buyers;

We are reinvigorating the right to buy—to support social tenants who aspire to own their own home, by raising the discounts to make it attractive to tenants across England.

We are matching this with a commitment that for every additional home bought under right to buy, a new affordable home will be built;

We are getting building moving again with a new £400 million "Get Britain Building" investment fund;

We have established a new £500 million growing places fund which will support infrastructure for housing and economic growth;

We are freeing up formerly used public sector land with capacity to deliver up to 100,000 new homes—with build now, pay later deals on the table to support builders who are struggling to get finance up front; and,

We are consulting on a proposal to allow reconsideration of those planning obligations agreed prior to April 2010 where development is stalled. Some planning obligations negotiated at the height of the economy boom now make the site economically unfeasible—resulting in no development, no regeneration and no community benefits at all.

We are also taking action to lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future.

We will be providing more support for local areas that want to deliver larger scale new development to meet the needs of their growing communities—with a programme of support for locally planned large scale development;

We are putting in place strong, new incentives for housing growth through the new homes bonus, community infrastructure levy and the proposals for local business rates retention;

We have consulted on simplifying planning policy through the draft national planning policy framework;

We are supporting a self-build revolution through a custom build homes programme to support and encourage more individuals and communities to build their own homes—including making available up to £30 million of new funding to support provision of short-term project finance on a repayable basis; and

We are giving communities new powers to deliver the development they want through Community right to build.

We are also supporting choice and quality for tenants by

supporting growth and investment in private rented housing, as the key to increasing choice, access and standards in the sector, while also working with local authorities to tackle the worst properties;

creating more opportunities for council tenants to have their say—with tenants with an arm's length management organisation landlord given new opportunities to influence how their homes are managed;

introducing a radical programme of reform of social housing through the Localism Act, changing the way people access social housing, the types of tenancies which are provided and the way the homelessness duty is discharged, though not the duty itself which continues to provide among the best homelessness support in the world;

doing more to tackle fraud and tenancy abuse—we will give local authorities the tools to identify and recover properties that are being used unlawfully; to charge more reasonable market orientated rents from people earning very high salaries; and to prevent people who own a suitable home from seeking social housing too; and

considering how we can encourage more affordable housing—supporting greater innovation and competition between social landlords—including encouraging new private entrants into the social housing market and considering innovative new approaches to funding affordable housing in the medium-term.

We are also making better use of existing stock—bringing more empty homes and buildings back into use. The housing strategy sets out our strategy for tackling empty homes, including £100 million funding to bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing and changes to council tax to help tackle empty homes and bring them back into productive use and an additional £50 million of funding to tackle some of the worst concentrations of empty homes.

We remain committed to providing appropriate support, protections and opportunities to struggling households and to making the best use of social housing to provide stable homes for those who need them most. We have prioritised protection for the vulnerable in last year's spending review and have established a ministerial working group to tackle the complex causes of homelessness. We are also setting out a new deal for older people's housing, with a better offer to support older people to live independently for longer.

This strategy is not just about building more homes. We know that the quality, sustainability and design of housing, along with sufficient funding to support growing communities is just as important as how many new homes are built and that getting this right is crucial if communities are going to support new homes.

I am also issuing today a consultation on the powers which will deliver a devolved system for financing council housing from next April. Self-financing will deliver a long term, securely funded, future for council housing and give councils the freedom they need to be innovative in meeting local needs.

Copies of the strategy and consultation on legal determinations to implement self-financing will be placed in the Library of the House and published online at www.communities.gov.uk

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan Monthly Progress Report

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the 11th progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The Bonn conference on 5 December provides President Karzai with an opportunity to set out his vision for an inclusive settlement. It is also an opportunity for the international community to reiterate its long-term commitment to Afghanistan.

The summer fighting season is ending and it has been a hard year for the insurgency. The numbers of both attempted and executed attacks were lower than during the corresponding period last year, continuing the trend observed over the summer. Despite considerable efforts, insurgents failed to re-establish themselves in areas in the south from which they had previously been displaced. High profile attacks in Kandahar early in October and in Kabul at the end of the month affected Afghan and international perceptions of security. However, Afghan national security forces (ANSF) disrupted many attempts and responded effectively and professionally to those that got through. Overall, the performance and operational capability of the ANSF continued to develop: they are on track to achieve their October 2012 growth objective of 352,000 and work continued to ensure that the quality of the forces steadily improves.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) 2011 Afghan opium survey reported a year on year increase in cultivation of 7% nationally (from 123,000 hectares to 131,000 hectares). However, the increase should be interpreted in the context of a difficult economic backdrop of opium prices (which have doubled in the last year to the highest level since 2004) and that the figures are 32% lower than in 2007 (which saw 193,000 hectares cultivated).

With UK support, the Government of Afghanistan continued to make important progress on revenue collection and budgeting. The Government confirmed their best ever first quarter performance for revenue collection to date, bringing it in line with neighbouring countries including Bangladesh and Pakistan. Meanwhile, provincial Governments have been working with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that for the first time, local priorities are reflected in plans for next year's national and provincial budgets. This will improve the Government's ability to deliver vital basic services to the Afghan people.

During his recent visit to Afghanistan, the Secretary of State for International Development launched an important new fund for Afghan civil society organisations. This will help them to engage better with the Afghan Government and hold it to account, for example on human rights and corruption.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

Post-Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) and General Affairs Council (GAC) were held on 14-15 November in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the FAC (foreign affairs). My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for International Development attended the FAC (development). The UK Permanent Representative attended the GAC.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

The FAC was chaired by the high representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland. A provisional report of the meeting (both foreign affairs and development), and all conclusions adopted, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126064.pdf

Afghanistan

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) that approved a mandate for an EU co-operation agreement for partnership and development with Afghanistan. They also agreed to extend the EU police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) in principle until the end of 2014, and made a commitment to support Afghan efforts in strengthening policing and the rule of law beyond 2014.

The Foreign Secretary stressed the importance of a clear vision for a future political settlement being set out by Afghanistan at the Bonn conference on 5 December. He also underlined Pakistan's key role and the need for the EU to maintain momentum on engagement with Pakistan, as agreed by Ministers in the Foreign Affairs Council in July.

Syria

Ministers adopted conclusions (see link) and restrictive measures against a further 18 members of the Syrian regime and stopping all European Investment Bank loans. Following the FAC, the Foreign Secretary said:

"I welcome the EU's decision today to apply further pressure on President Assad's regime, following the strong measures announced by the Arab League this weekend. The EU has listed a further 18 individuals involved in or supporting the regime's activities, including military, security and intelligence officials leading military operations in Syria. In addition, the EU has moved to prevent any further disbursement of loans from the European Investment Bank to Syria.

President Assad has ignored countless calls by the international community to put an end to the horrific violence in Syria. Since the Syrian regime's claim to have agreed to the plan put forward by the Arab League on 2 November, violence has only escalated with a death toll of over 3,500 people since March. As long as the violence continues, we will continue to press the Syrian regime to bring an end to this killing".

Libya

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) welcoming the declaration of the liberation of Libya on 23 October. They encouraged the National Transitional Council to respect human rights in line with its constitutional charter.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised the success of NATO's military intervention. The three key actions for now were moving forward with EU support, engaging the tools of the neighbourhood policy and sending measured but clear signals on our expectations on human rights, including the rights of women.

Tunisia and Egypt

Conclusions welcomed the "historic" elections in Tunisia (see link). Baroness Ashton laid out support under way or ready to be negotiated with the new Government: agricultural liberalisation, "open skies", a mobility partnership, a free trade agreement, and a doubling of funding in 2011 to €160 million. On Egypt, there was a brief exchange on elections due later this month. Ministers are likely to return to this at their meeting in December.

Horn of Africa and Somalia

Ministers adopted a strategic framework for the horn of Africa (see link). This will guide EU action in five areas: building robust and accountable political structures; contributing to conflict resolution and prevention; mitigating security threats emanating from the region; promoting economic growth, and supporting regional economic co-operation.

On Somalia, Ministers adopted conclusions (see link) which expressed concern about the situation in Somalia, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to support AMISOM and to continue the EU training mission for Somalia's security forces.

The Foreign Secretary set out the UK's support for Kenyan action in Somalia, which he stressed should be done in co-ordination with the Transitional Federal Government and in compliance with international law. He also outlined proposals for an international conference on Somalia in 2012, announced by the Prime Minister on 14 November.

Iran

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) expressing increasing concern about the possible military dimensions of the Iranian nuclear programme and the lack of progress with diplomatic efforts. They also raised the prospect of reinforced sanctions measures in December.

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Over lunch. Ministers discussed current and possible future CSDP operations. The Foreign Secretary set out the UK's substantial contribution to European defence, not least as the EU country with the largest defence budget. He also reiterated the UK's long-standing opposition to the establishment of an EU Operational Headquarters. Baroness Ashton concluded that EU Defence and Foreign Ministers would discuss this further at their meetings on 30 November and 1 December respectively.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (DEVELOPMENT)

The EU Common Position for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4, Busan, 29 November to 1 December 2011)

The EU common position for Busan was adopted and received general endorsement from member states. Mr O'Brien stated the UK's desire to see a clear focus on transparency, results and fragility and stressed the importance of ensuring Busan produces an ambitious outcome that engages broader development actors as well as traditional donors. This was endorsed by Commissioner Piebalgs and the High Representative Baroness Ashton.

Ministers also discussed the issue of EU "joint programming". Commissioner Piebalgs proposed a Busan initiative which launched joint programming in pilot countries. Mr O'Brien set out the UK's concerns and made it clear that consultation on any list of countries and any form of EU co-ordination must be country-led, pragmatic and open to all donors, rather than led by Brussels.

Horn of Africa

Development Ministers addressed the humanitarian and development aspects of the horn of Africa crisis, continuing the discussion held by Foreign Ministers during the Foreign Affairs Council earlier in the day. Commissioner Georgieva praised UK leadership in the horn of Africa and called for a concerted long-term effort which addressed resilience.

Mr O'Brien called for a sustained EU effort over 2012 with more member states providing support and highlighted the importance of engaging with Turkey, the Gulf states and other donors in an ambitious response based on need and resilience. Baroness Ashton concluded by endorsing Mr O'Brien's message on the need for a holistic response and the importance of finding a political solution. This was supported by a number of member states. The Under-Secretary of State also confirmed that the UK would be hosting the Somalia conference next year. The announcement was met with wide approval from Ministers, Baroness Ashdown and the Commissioners attending.

Future of EU Development Policy

Ministers endorsed the recent European Commission's (EC) communication on "Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change". Mr O'Brien stressed the importance of establishing a results framework for EU aid and also reinforced the UK concerns on EU joint programming.

EU Budget Support

This item focused on the EC Communication on "The Future Approach to EU Budget Support to Third Countries", which was broadly welcomed by Ministers. There was general agreement on the principle of differentiating aid—ensuring it is more focused on the poorest countries. Mr O'Brien stressed that decisions on budget support should be made in-country on a case-by-case basis, with non-EU donors and member states retaining full ministerial responsibility over funding decisions.

AOB: G20 and Energy for All

Limited time was afforded to these AOB points. Nevertheless, France highlighted the achievements of the French G20 Cannes declaration. Additionally,

Commissioner Piebalgs stated that he would write to Ministers on his initiative on Sustainable Energy for All.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC was chaired by the Polish EU presidency (Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, State Secretary for European Affairs). A draft record of the meeting can be found at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/126082.pdf

Multiannual Financial Framework

Ministers discussed the EU's multiannual framework for 2014-2020. The presidency indicated that it would present a report to the European Council on 9 December. It stressed that this report would signal the end of the clarification stage, paving the way for negotiations to begin in earnest in January 2012 under the Danish presidency.

The UK Permanent Representative set out the UK's views. The current proposals were too high. The Commission needed to explore ways of replacing some current expenditure rather than adding more. Proposals to increase structural and cohesion funds as well as the Connecting Europe Facility were also too high. The UK could not support macro-fiscal conditionality on EU Budget funding due to the special position of the UK by virtue of protocol 15 of the treaties. Structural funds should be directed towards the poorest regions which are mostly located in the poorest member states. And the Commission's proposals on the common agricultural policy needed to be substantially reduced.

October and December European Councils

Ministers reviewed the proposed agenda for the December Council which includes economic issues, energy and EU enlargement. Signature of the treaty on the accession of Croatia to the EU is scheduled for the margins of the December Council.

During the discussion on draft European Council conclusions the UK Permanent Representative stressed the need to reflect earlier Council conclusions on ensuring the widest possible reduction of regulatory burden and the importance of trade as a driver for growth. The UK Permanent Representative welcomed the undertaking of President van Rompuy to update the European Council on the reflections of the euro area member states, but noted that October European Council conclusions had talked in more explicit terms about the integrity of the EU as a whole and the role of the 27 in any discussion on treaty change; and that the UK wanted to see that approach reflected here.

Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) which welcomed the European Commission's report on the Baltic sea strategy which had been agreed by the General Affairs and External Relations Council in October 2009.

I will deposit copies of this note in the Libraries of both Houses. And I will also continue to update Parliament on future Foreign and General Affairs Councils.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Protocol and Shadow Strategic Policing Requirement

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): A year from now the public within England and Wales will, for the first time, have been given a direct vote and say in how they and their communities are policed. The election of the first police and crime commissioners on 15 November 2012 will mark a step change in how policing is held to account. Communities will be able to voice their local priorities to a single, directly elected, individual; their police and crime commissioner.

Police and crime commissioners will be powerful local representatives, able to set the priorities for the police force within their force area, respond to the needs and demands of their communities more effectively, ensure that local and national priorities are suitably funded by setting a budget and the local precept, and hold to account the local chief constable for the delivery and performance of the force.

Strong and effective leadership will continue to be delivered by the chief constable and their command teams. Nothing within this step change of policing governance removes or calls into question the operational independence of the police service which remains the corner stone of all that is good about our way of policing by consent.

To provide future safeguard to this principle I have today laid for the approval of Parliament a protocol which sets out how the new policing governance arrangements will work. It clarifies the role and responsibilities of police and crime commissioners (PCCs), the mayor's office for policing and crime (MOPC), chief constables, police and crime panels and the London assembly police and crime panel. It outlines what these bodies are expected to do and how they are expected to work together to fight crime and improve policing. The protocol will therefore fundamentally underpin the key working relationships within the new policing landscape.

Elections for police and crime commissioners for England and Wales will take place in November 2012. Within London, the mayor's office for policing and crime will perform the equivalent role for the metropolitan police district. How these elected policing bodies work with, and interact with, chief constables and police and crime panels will be crucial to achieving success.

It is my intention to issue the protocol to all chief constables, police authority chairs, their chief executives, the chief executives of all local authorities within England and Wales and the Welsh Government in order to assist in transition planning. The protocol will also be made available to all potential candidates for the Mayor of London elections in May 2012. It will then be made available to potential candidates for the office of PCC within each force area in England and Wales ahead of the first elections in November 2012.

Within England and Wales, the changes in governance will take effect on 22 November 2012, with the exception of London. I am confident that with this protocol in place everyone will be able to work together effectively to drive down crime and to make our communities safer.

I am also today issuing a non statutory "shadow" strategic policing requirement which sets out my view, as Home Secretary, of the national threats that the police must address and the appropriate national policing capabilities I believe are required to counter those threats. It respects the operational independence of the police, advising what, in strategic terms, they need to achieve but not how they should achieve it. I have placed copies

of the shadow strategic policing requirement in the House of Commons Library and an electronic copy can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/strategic-policing-requirement/

I am issuing this shadow strategic policing requirement now to inform police forces' and police authorities' plans for 2012-13. Although it will not, at this stage, have statutory effect, it is my intention that it should help to drive improvements during the transition period to police and crime commissioners. I will look to all forces and authorities to have regard to this shadow strategic policing requirement when exercising their responsibilities.

The shadow strategic policing requirement is a statement of the collective capabilities that police forces across England and Wales will be expected to have in place in order to protect the public from cross-boundary threats such as terrorism, civil emergencies, public disorder, cyber incidents and organised crime. It supports the development and maintenance of policing capabilities, often collaboratively between forces, and in support of the work of national agencies such as, in future, the National Crime Agency.

I have consulted with ACPO, the APA, and other policing bodies and relevant agencies to develop the shadow strategic policing requirement. I will consult further on the experience of forces and authorities in using this shadow strategic policing requirement, and will then issue the statutory strategic policing requirement next summer in time for the election of police and crime commissioners.

Both police and crime commissioners and chief constables will be required to have regard to the SPR from November 2012 in the conduct of their respective responsibilities.

I would like to thank all of those from the police and the other bodies and agencies that have contributed to the drafting of the protocol and the shadow strategic policing requirement—their work has been invaluable.

JUSTICE

Judicial Appointments

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The judiciary play a critical role in the administration of justice. It is therefore vital that we select candidates for judicial office on merit, through fair and open competition, from the widest range of eligible candidates.

We consider that there is a need to address issues with the current systems. Those issues include: the length of time and amount of money it can cost to run a selection process; the degree of diversity in appointments; and the inflexibility of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, which means even minor process changes require primary legislation.

All of this supports the case for revisiting judicial appointments and today we have launched a consultation on legislative changes to achieve the proper balance between executive, judicial and independent responsibilities, improve clarity, transparency and openness in processes; create a more diverse judiciary that is reflective of society; and deliver speed and quality of service to applicants, the courts and tribunals and value for money to the taxpayer.

A number of our proposals give effect to recommendations arising from the report of the advisory panel on judicial diversity. Others come from the judiciary and those with a close interest in the appointment process.

I have formally submitted the consultation to the chair of the House of Lords Constitution Committee as part of our contribution to their ongoing inquiry into judicial appointments and diversity. The Government intend to consider the Committee's findings alongside responses to this consultation.

The closing date for comments will be 13 February 2012.

It is available online at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations.

TRANSPORT

Airport Security Scanners

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): On Christmas day 2009 an attempted attack on Northwest flight 253 from Amsterdam Schiphol to Detroit was made using an explosive device concealed in the underwear of a passenger. The device had been constructed with the aim of making detection by existing screening methods extremely difficult and had not been picked up by airport security at any point throughout the passenger's journey.

The previous Government's response to this threat included introducing security scanners at UK airports. Security scanners were deployed at Heathrow and Manchester airports in February 2010. They were deployed at Gatwick airport a few months later, meaning that today scanners are in operation at three of the largest UK airports.

A public consultation on an interim code of practice for the use of security scanners began just before the general election. After the election, my predecessor, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) extended the consultation to allow more time for people to respond. The consultation closed on 19 July 2010 and over 6,000 responses were received. These have been analysed and I can now announce how we intend to deploy security scanners in the future.

The overwhelming feedback from airports is that nearly all passengers accept the use of security scanners and find the process quick and convenient. Out of over a million scans the Government are aware of only 12 refusals. However, I recognise that some passengers have concerns about the use of security scanners and these concerns were reflected in the responses to the consultation.

The ways in which security scanners can be deployed have been restricted by European legislation. My predecessor asked the Transport Commissioner to bring forward proposals which relax these restrictions, and allow scanners to be used more flexibly. An outline package which would achieve this was presented to the European Aviation Security Committee in July and has now been agreed by the European Parliament.

Most responses to the consultation expressed discomfort with the idea of having an image of their body captured for analysis, and they indicated that—if selected for a security scan—they would prefer to opt for an alternative method of screening. I have considered this carefully. However, I have decided against it, on security, operational and privacy grounds.

First, I do not believe that a "pat down" search is equivalent in security terms to a security scan. The purpose of introducing security scanners in the first place was to protect the travelling public better against sophisticated terrorist threats: these threats still exist and the required level of security is not achieved by permitting passengers to choose a less effective alternative.

I have considered carefully whether there are alternative screening methods which might deliver equivalent levels of security to a security scan. A full private search—involving the loosening and/or removal of clothing in the presence of security staff in a private room—would deliver a reasonable level of assurance. However, I believe that this is likely to represent a greater intrusion of privacy than a security scan, and that nearly all passengers, if they fully understand the procedures, would be unlikely to opt for this alternative. It is also likely to be operationally disruptive to airports and other passengers. Appropriately trained security staff would need to be diverted from the main search area to undertake these searches, leading to increased costs and longer queues for everyone else. I do not, therefore, believe that this represents a viable way forward.

I am aware that the proposals recently agreed by the European Parliament include the right for passengers to request an opt-out from scanning. The UK did not support these proposals when they were presented to the Aviation Security Committee. Given the security arguments against permitting such an opt-out, and the threat level that exists in the UK, the Government intend to use their powers under the Aviation Security Act to maintain the current position. Those passengers selected for scanning will therefore not be able to fly if they are not willing to be scanned.

The consultation also asked people whether they had any health concerns relating to the small doses of ionising radiation produced by some security scanners. Only a limited number of responses were received on this issue, but I recognise that it has continued to be a contentious issue. Last year, experts from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) conducted an official assessment of the x-ray backscatter scanner in use at some UK airports. The HPA found that the dose of ionising radiation received from deployed backscatter scanners is the equivalent to that received naturally through just two minutes of flying at high altitude.

The European Commission has called for further expert consideration of the potential health risks from security scanners and has asked the European Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks to review the evidence. I look forward to the Committee's report and will consider it carefully before making decisions about which technologies should be deployed at UK airports in future.

However, it is right that the Government does what it can to address people's concerns wherever that is possible without compromising security. Therefore I can announce today that the Government intend to make further improvements to the privacy and data safeguards already in place for security scanners.

Software which automatically analyses images is currently in development. Where this technology has developed to a stage at which it passes rigorous Government testing, airports will be expected to deploy it when they renew or replace their equipment. This will mean that in the future images will no longer be seen by human reviewers. In addition, airports will also be required to undertake routine testing of hardware and software to ensure that they remain unable to copy, save, or otherwise transmit images. This will be verified by the Department's transport security inspectors.

I have also been considering whether security scanners should be rolled out more widely at UK airports. In principle, I believe that they should. My officials will work with the aviation industry to agree a risk-based approach to further deployments. However, I want to make sure that this is done in conjunction with the availability of enhanced screening technology with better privacy safeguards. The precise timing of further deployments will therefore be dependent on how quickly the new generation of security scanners is developed.

I have placed a copy of this statement, and the revised regulations on the use of security scanners at UK airports, in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 22 November 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Council

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): In advance of the forthcoming Energy Council in Brussels on 24 November, I am writing to outline the agenda items to be discussed.

The first substantive item on the agenda will be a report on the progress of negotiation of the draft directive on energy efficiency. Given the complexity of the directive, progress since negotiations began in July has been limited, although a welcome start has been made in addressing over-prescription and a lack of flexibility in the draft directive. The Government support measures to encourage greater energy efficiency across the EU and look forward to more work being done on this dossier under the Danish presidency, for whom it is a priority.

The Commission will then present its proposal for a regulation on the safety of offshore oil and gas activities, which is intended to reduce the chances of a disaster similar to the one in the gulf of Mexico from happening in European waters. The UK welcomes the fact that many of the requirements in the proposed regulation appear to mirror key elements of the UK's existing offshore safety regime, although we have serious concerns over the practical effect of a regulation on the administration of our current regime.

There will be a presentation by the Commission of the proposal for a regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and a first exchange of views on the draft regulation by Ministers, based on questions proposed by the presidency. The UK welcomes the publication of the draft regulation, its focus on cross-border infrastructure projects and its acknowledgement of the role that the tools in the third package of energy market legislation will play in incentivising investment in electricity, gas and other networks necessary for the move to a low-carbon energy economy, while preserving energy security. While we welcome efforts to improve permitting processes, flexibility is key. Member states have their own pre-application and consent procedures reflecting their own particular needs and circumstances so this will need to be considered when determining how "best practice" might be developed in this area.

The presidency will present a progress report on the main actions and initiatives taken in response to the conclusions agreed at the European Council and the Energy Council in February. The report covers five policy areas where deadlines or priorities have been set: energy efficiency, internal energy market, infrastructure, external energy relations and nuclear.

The agenda includes two items on the external dimension of EU energy policy. The presidency is aiming for adoption of Council conclusions on the Commission's communication on European external energy policy. We are broadly content with the conclusions and with the amendments we have secured, which aim to ensure that the Commission respects the existing balance of EU/member state competence under the treaties—in particular, in relation to co-ordinated messages in international forums such as the IEA, IAEA and G20 etc. The Commission will then update the Council on a number of EU external energy relations issues.

A number of member state delegations will present information to the Council on issues of concern to them.

Over lunch Ministers will discuss the implications of individual member states' choice of national energy policy for European energy objectives and receive a presentation on the International Energy Authority's World Energy Outlook 2011 from the IEA's executive director.

PRIME MINISTER

Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The 13th report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life has been published by the Committee today. I have laid the report before the House and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Coastguard Modernisation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I will be making an oral statement later today.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 23 November 2011

EDUCATION

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): The vast majority of children in this country grow up safe from harm. However, the Barnardo's report "Puppet on a string: the urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation", published in January, emphasised that children are being sexually exploited here and now. It showed that this appalling form of child abuse is more prevalent than most people have appreciated.

It is clear that this abuse can be perpetrated by individuals from all sections of society. It can affect boys, girls, older and younger children, from stable and affluent homes as well as from less advantaged backgrounds, in urban and rural communities. It has a devastating and lasting impact, both on the children and young people who suffer from it and on their families.

The Barnardo's report called for a national action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation. As Minister responsible for children and families, I asked my officials to lead the development of such an action plan and I am very pleased to be publishing it later today. I am grateful to the many national and local organisations, and other Government Departments, which have contributed to it over the last few months, particularly the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Minister with responsibility for crime and security, the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire) and colleagues in the Home Office.

The action plan was developed in the context of the Munro review of child protection. Like Professor Eileen Munro's final report, and the Government's response to her review, the action plan emphasises the important role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in ensuring that local multi-agency arrangements are in place to help and protect children and young people. The action plan is similarly child-centred, trying to see sexual exploitation from the point of view of the child or young person, as he or she goes through the different stages which might occur.

Child sexual exploitation is horrific and has no place in this, or any other, society. It is a serious crime and must be treated as such, with the perpetrators pursued more rigorously. We can only tackle it successfully by looking at every aspect of the problem: raising awareness and understanding; effective prevention and detection; securing robust prosecutions; and improving support for victims and their families. The action plan does that, bringing together for the first time actions already being taken and actions which will be taken forward in the future. Much work is currently under way and more will take place over the coming months.

Nothing is more important than keeping children and young people safe. Today's action plan is an important step forward but there is a long way to go. I am determined that everything which can be done is done to make our children safer from sexual exploitation.

I have placed copies of the action plan in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Locarno Group

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to make the House aware that I have decided to convene the first meeting of the Locarno Group on 24 November. This advisory group will support and challenge the FCO in its consideration of foreign policy.

When I set out my vision of the future of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 8 September, I emphasised the importance of strengthening the long term capability and international effectiveness of the FCO as an institution at the heart of Government, and improving our country's capacity to pursue effective foreign policy for the years and decades to come.

I also emphasised the importance of cultivating and retaining the knowledge and expertise that has made the FCO one of the best diplomatic services in the world. The Locarno Group will contribute to this by drawing on the advice of senior FCO alumni.

The group's discussions will be treated as confidential advice.

A copy of the terms of reference (including a list of group members) and my speech of 8 September has been placed in the Library of the House and published on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk).

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 1-2 December. The health and consumer affairs part of the Council will be taken on 2 December.

The presidency is expected to propose the adoption of Council conclusions on the following:

- closing the gap in health between member states through action on determinants of health, especially nutrition and physical activity;
- non-communicable diseases: prevention and control of respiratory diseases in children; and
- prevention and control of communication disorders in children, including innovative approaches to treatment.

The United Kingdom supports the adoption of these Council conclusions.

There is also expected to be an exchange of views on the Commission's new public health programme, "Health for Growth", to take effect from 2014-2020.

Under any other business, the presidency is likely to provide information on the information to patients legislative package: proposal for a regulation and a directive as regards information to the general public on

medicinal products for human use subject to medical prescription and as regards pharmacovigilance. The UK supports the adoption of both of these proposals, while recognising the strong opposition from other member states towards them.

In addition, information will be provided from the presidency on several matters including a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes, on the Senior Level Group and on the European Innovation Partnership. The Danish delegation will also give information on the priorities for their forthcoming presidency, which will run from January until July 2012.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migration (Bulgarian and Romanian Workers)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am confirming today that the restrictions currently applied to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals' employment in the United Kingdom will continue until the end of 2013.

The Government are concerned to ensure that migration to the UK does not have adverse impacts on the employment opportunities of the domestic labour force at the current time. Because of the uncertainty of any effects, the Government are firmly of the view that transitional measures are required to mitigate the impacts of labour migration when countries newly accede to the EU.

The transitional restrictions applied to Bulgarian and Romanian workers have been in force since 1 January 2007. They restrict Bulgarian and Romanian nationals to employment that is either skilled or is in sectors where there continues to be a shortage of labour, and have therefore helped to ensure that migration from those countries delivers economic benefits to the UK.

Under paragraph 5 of annexes VI and VII of the treaty concerning the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU, the UK may extend these restrictions to the end of 2013 where there is a serious disturbance to its labour market or threat thereof. We have approached the question of whether there is such a disturbance, or the risk of one, carefully. Economic events of recent years have inevitably impacted upon labour market conditions in the UK but the labour market has demonstrated a high degree of resilience, particularly in terms of levels of employment, during and since the recession. However, labour market conditions, and the extent to which they are affected by migration, are very uncertain in the current economic circumstances.

It is against that background that I have sought advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on the labour market grounds for extending the restrictions. The MAC's findings, published on 4 November, are that, on the basis of the indicators of labour market performance which it has used, the UK labour market is currently in a state of serious disturbance and that lifting the current restrictions at this stage would risk negative impacts on the labour market.

In particular, the Committee has concluded that while migration flows from Bulgaria and Romania have been relatively low, the number of Bulgarians and Romanians resident in the UK has nevertheless increased substantially since 1 January 2007 and that it is likely that removing the current restrictions would cause inward flows to increase and cause those who currently come to the UK for temporary purposes to seek more permanent employment in the UK. In addition, the Committee has suggested that the labour market impact of these outcomes would be aggravated by the likelihood that such increased labour market participation by Bulgarian and Romanian workers in these circumstances would tend to be concentrated in lower-skilled occupations where the risk of displacement of domestic workers is higher.

The Government have decided that, given their own assessment of the labour market and the MAC's findings, retaining the current restrictions is a proportionate means of addressing any disturbance or threat. The restrictions will therefore continue in their current form until the end of 2013. I am notifying the European Commission of this decision and I am taking the necessary legislative action to extend the period of application of the current regulations.

The annual quota for the seasonal agricultural workers' scheme (SAWS) will continue at 21,250 places for 2012 and 2013 and the annual quota for the sectors-based scheme (SBS) will continue at 3,500 places for 2012 and 2013.

Under European law, the current restrictions cannot continue beyond the end of 2013 and will therefore be lifted at that point.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I visited Burma for three days from 15 to 17 November, the first visit by a senior Minister from the European Union since a ban on high-level engagement was suspended in April 2011. In the capital, Naypyidaw, I met President Thein Sein, Vice-President Tin Aung Myint Oo, the Speaker of the Lower House Shwe Mann, and the Ministers for Industry, Railways, Border Affairs and Health. In Mandalay I visited development projects funded by Britain. In Rangoon I spent most of a day with Aung San Suu Kyi including visiting a school run by her party, the National League for Democracy, and I met representatives of ethnic groups, other political parties, activists, civil society groups, and the recently freed political prisoner Zarganar. I was accompanied throughout by British journalists.

Speaking to members of the Burmese Government, I both welcomed the progress that the Government have recently made towards political reform and strongly urged that the momentum of reform be maintained. In particular I pressed for:

a full release of political prisoners, including 1988 generation leader Min Ko Naing;

continued progress in the dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi;

free and fair by-elections, due to be held in the next two months;

urgent moves towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts; and

improved humanitarian access in border areas.

I made it clear that Britain would support a very significant positive international response if the reform process continued.

The President and his Ministers assured me that the reforms would continue, but gave no clear time frame and argued that considerations about stability were stalling the release of more political prisoners. The President however emphasised the importance of the dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, and expressed his hope that she and the National League for Democracy would run in the by-elections—they have since confirmed that they will. Burmese Ministers confirmed that they had opened channels of communication with armed ethnic groups. I noted that the international community was watching closely for successful outcomes on these issues.

Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her gratitude for Britain's unwavering support for democracy, development and human rights in Burma. She stressed the need to maintain pressure for the full release of political prisoners, strengthened rule of law in Burma including the independence of the judiciary, and progress on negotiations with the ethnic groups. Aung San Suu Kyi set out her priorities for development and poverty reduction in Burma, focussing on education, health, widening the availability of small scale finance to poor families, and improving child nutrition. She underlined the importance of improving living conditions equally across Burma, including in ethnic areas.

During the visit I set out the results that British aid would deliver for the Burmese people over the next four years:

ensuring that more than 127,000 mothers give birth more safely;

preventing more than 150,000 unintended pregnancies;

helping more than 1.8 million people with bed nets to help avoid malaria;

diagnosis and treatment to reduce drug-resistant malaria;

supporting 277,000 children through primary school;

providing 110,000 women with access to affordable credit;

helping 92,000 women and men produce more food.

I also highlighted the prospect of further British help in the future if the reform process is maintained, for example to encourage wealth creation and to help to improve Government accountability, service delivery and the rule of law.

TRANSPORT

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 71220 on 13 September, *Official Report*, column 1072W, about information held for each individual transaction undertaken by British Transport police using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10.

The correct answer is that this Government are committed to transparency and we believe the information regarding Government Procurement Cards for this financial year is the most relevant. Central Government Departments are now publishing any transactions over £500 on their websites, starting with 2011-12 quarter 1 (April-June) data and thereafter on a monthly basis. The cost of work required to obtain, contextualise and report data for previous years would exceed the cost limits of a freedom of information request or a parliamentary question.

For purposes of transparency, the Department for Transport now lists GPC spend (http://data.gov.uk/dataset/dft-gpc-spend) on its website. This includes details of spend by the British Transport police.

Civil Aviation Bill

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): The publication of the draft Civil Aviation Bill today marks an important step in this Government's desire to put passengers at the heart of airport operations. The proposals are designed to modernise key elements of the regulatory framework for civil aviation in the UK, to enable the sector to increase its contribution to economic growth without compromising high standards.

Much of our aviation regulation is governed by 1980s legislation and needs to be updated. This draft Bill offers a package of reforms to make both regulation and the sanctions which support it flexible, proportionate, targeted and effective. It proposes removing unnecessary regulation and unnecessary intervention by central Government. It devolves more responsibility to the independent specialist regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), while ensuring that the CAA is accountable and weighs the costs and benefits of its decisions. The draft Bill proposes that certain costs of regulating aviation should be moved from general taxation to the aviation industry.

Above all the draft Bill puts the consumer first. In the economic regulation of airports with substantial market power the CAA's primary duty will be to consumers; that is passengers and owners of cargo now and in the future. In addition, the Bill gives the CAA a role in promoting better public information about airline and airport performance and about the environmental effects of aviation and measures taken to mitigate adverse effects.

Aviation enables people to travel for business, leisure and to visit friends and family; and it enables the rapid movement of goods to and from markets overseas. The Government want to see a successful and competitive aviation industry. We are taking forward the work of the South East Airports Taskforce to improve our major airports within the constraints of existing runways. In the longer term, we have committed to producing a sustainable framework for UK aviation by 2013 which supports economic growth and addresses aviation's environmental impacts.

The draft Bill complements these policies. It is in three parts:

reforming the framework for airport economic regulation, following my predecessor's statements to the House on 3 March 2011 and 21 July 2010.

modernising the framework and functions of the aviation regulator, the CAA. Some of these measures stem from the

independent strategic review of the CAA by Sir Joseph Pilling in 2008 and a consultation launched by the previous Government in 2009.

transferring certain operational aviation security functions to the CAA as part of wider work to improve aviation security regulation and deliver savings to general taxation. This proposal, mentioned in the July 2011 consultation document "Better Regulation for Aviation Security", would create a single regulator for aviation safety and security. The Secretary of State would remain responsible for aviation security policy and issuing aviation security directions to the industry.

The Government have previously announced that legislation to implement airport economic regulation reforms would be introduced early in the next parliamentary session. An opportunity has now arisen to introduce a Civil Aviation Bill into Parliament near the beginning of 2012. This would help ensure that the CAA does not have to set airport price controls for the five-year period 2014-19 under the existing system. I therefore intend to take up this opportunity. I still wish however to publish the draft Bill today to provide an opportunity, even though the time available is shorter than previously envisaged, for the Transport Committee and stakeholders to consider the proposals before they are introduced into Parliament.

It is possible that the scope of the Bill may be extended before it is introduced. One area which could be included is the reform of the Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL), following the recently finished consultation on measures to protect consumers better in the 21st century holiday market and help create a more level regulatory playing field for businesses.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Committee on Standards in Public Life (13th Report)

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Nick Clegg): The Government are grateful for the Committee on Standards in Public Life report which was published yesterday, and will study it carefully.

Some key principles can be drawn from the report. Properly funded, vibrant political parties are vital to a healthy democracy and a key part of the UK's constitutional framework. The amount any one individual, organisation or institution can give in political donations should be limited. Fairness between parties with different types of funding is crucial. So too is fairness for the taxpayer. Like the Committee, the Government accept that the state has some role to play in ensuring these principles apply in reality.

The Government believe that the case cannot be made for greater state funding of political parties at a time when budgets are being squeezed and economic recovery remains the highest priority. But there is a case for looking carefully at whether existing levels of support could be used more effectively.

We remain committed to limiting donations and reforming party funding. So the Government accept in principle the Committee's recommendation that donations to political parties should be capped. But the level of a cap will need to be considered with reference to other elements of a reform package, in particular the impact on the ability of parties to continue to raise sufficient funds and the absence of any additional support from the state.

We are also of the view that the report is right to recognise a new party funding settlement must include genuine reform in respect of trade union donations.

Reform remains a priority and is best achieved as far as possible by consensus. To that end we plan to continue cross-party discussions based on the principles identified by the Committee and the Government's reform commitments.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Employment Law Review

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): The Government believe the UK economy should be supported by a framework of laws that ensures we have a strong and efficient labour market which is flexible, effective and fair. Today the Government are announcing a series of measures following outcomes from our employment law review process.

Employment Tribunal Reform

Today the Government have launched their response to the Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation and announced that we are commissioning a fundamental review of the current rules of procedure for employment tribunals[1].

The publication of our response to the Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation is a significant milestone in our wider review of employment law. We believe the measures set out in our response today will deliver a more streamlined and efficient employment tribunal system, provide both employers and employees with greater access to methods of early dispute resolution and support growth by giving employers more confidence to take on new workers.

The legislative measures outlined in our package will be taken forward when parliamentary time permits.

On behalf of the Government, I have asked Mr Justice Underhill, the outgoing president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, to lead a fundamental review of the rules of procedure for employment tribunals. A "working group", chaired by Mr Justice Underhill, will undertake the review itself and report back to Ministers with recommendations. It is our intention that the review will develop and recommend a revised procedural code, with a view to ensuring that robust case-management powers can be applied flexibly and proportionately in individual cases coming before employment tribunals.

The review will commence in November 2011 and will run for six months. The working party will be invited to provide recommendations by the end of April 2012.

Dismissal

We are going to be seeking views on a proposal to introduce compensated no-fault dismissal for micro-firms with fewer than 10 employees. We will also look at ways to slim down existing dismissal processes, which can be, and are often perceived to be, lengthy and unfair to both employers and employees. We will therefore seek

views on how we might simplify them, including potentially working with ACAS to make changes to their code, or supplementary guidance for small businesses.

TUPE and Collective Redundancies

The Government are also looking at the current rules on consultation in collective redundancy situations. Today I am launching a call for evidence on the experience of employers and employees in collective redundancies. The call for evidence will seek to identify where changes, if they are thought necessary, could be made that will help improve the ability of businesses to restructure, while ensuring that employees have access to support in finding alternative training or employment opportunities.

Some businesses have raised concerns that the current TUPE arrangements are overly bureaucratic and may in some areas, such as service provision, unnecessarily gold-plate European rules. Therefore, today I am launching a second call for evidence on the effectiveness of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 in protecting employees' rights and smoothing the process of business restructuring. This is a complex area of legislation and it is important we gather evidence from a wide range of stakeholders in considering the case for change.

Copies of the Resolving Workplace Disputes Government response document, the Fundamental Review Terms of Reference and both calls for evidence have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1] The existing procedural rules for employment tribunals are contained in schedule 1 of the Employment Tribunal (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations 2004.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 24 November 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN (18 November 2011)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council—Budget was held in Brussels on 18 November 2011.

The following items were discussed:

Preparation of the Conciliation Committee meeting with the European Parliaments

The Council reached a final position on the 2012 EU budget, as part of negotiations with the European Parliament via a concurrent Conciliation Committee meeting. In particular, it was agreed that EU spending (payment appropriations) in 2012 should total €129.1 billion, some €4.0 billion below the level advocated by the European Parliament. The level of commitment appropriations, which limits the value of new contractual obligations to disburse EU funds in current or future years, was set at €147.2 billion for 2012.

As part of this process, the Council also adopted the Letter of Amendment No. 2 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2012, which handles mainly administrative costs relating to the expected accession of Croatia to the EU, and the Letter of Amendment No. 3 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2012, which concerns updates for estimated needs for agricultural expenditure and international fisheries agreements.

Separately, the Council agreed to adopt Draft Amending Budget No. 6 to the General Budget 2011, which increases the level of EU funds by €200 million in 2011 in order to reflect the possibility of overspending on some programmes during the remainder of this year.

Outcome of the Conciliation Committee meeting with the European Parliaments

The Government supported the Council's overall position on the 2012 EU budget, which delivers on the Government's principal aim to freeze EU spending in real terms next year. This outcome delivers real budgetary restraint at EU-level, supports ongoing efforts to consolidate public finances across many member states and respects the principles of sound financial management. It also delivers on the Prime Minister's letter from December last year, signed jointly by France, Germany, Finland and the Netherlands, that called on the Council to step up progressively its efforts to curb annual growth in EU spending.

In the Government's view, the Commission did not present satisfactory forecasts to demonstrate that extra funds requested under Draft Amending Budget No. 6 to the General Budget 2011 were necessary. Unfortunately, this is another example of poor EU budgeting. This Government are committed to improving financial management in the EU, as well as delivering budgetary restraint. Therefore, the Government voted against this in-year adjustment, in order to signal its ongoing dissatisfaction with EU financial management.

Any other business

No substantive issues were raised under this agenda item.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Market Renewal (Legacy)

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): The last Government's housing market renewal pathfinder programme imposed large scale Whitehall targets for demolition and clearance across the midlands and the north of England. The centrally driven schemes were often resented by local communities and created as many problems as they solved. This top-down approach has not worked, often resulting in blighted areas where large scale demolition and clearance projects have been stopped in their tracks, leaving some families isolated in abandoned streets.

There was widespread public controversy over an obsession with demolition over refurbishment, the lack of transparency of the pathfinder quangos, large profits by developers, the demolition of our nation's Victorian heritage and perverse incentives being given to run down neighbourhoods.

The designation of areas for demolition effectively increased deprivation in those areas; many social landlords prepared the ground by "voiding" and boarding up properties. In turn, this undermined the housing market as mortgage lenders were unwilling to lend in such areas. Areas were effectively managed into decline—to make the notional benefits of wholesale demolition more attractive, ensuring a larger windfall gain for the state.

Local communities in some of the most deprived areas of the country were told they would see a transformation of their areas, which in reality amounted to bulldozing buildings and knocking down neighbourhoods, pitting neighbour against neighbour and leaving families trapped in abandoned streets. This was wrong.

As campaigning group Save Britain's Heritage has remarked:

"From the start, pathfinder showed an appetite for destruction....The classic English terraced house was demonised as "obsolete". Whole neighbourhoods were declared surplus at the keystroke of a consultant's laptop. Bureaucratic arrogance reduced communities to inmates of a "Zoo"—Zone of Opportunity—for house builders. Statisticians assumed compulsory purchase and eviction for demolition were acceptable measures for householders in a property-owning democracy. Quite predictably, the cure turned out worse than the disease".

The coalition Government are taking a different, more localist, approach. We are putting residents, local businesses and civic leaders in the driving seat and providing them with local rewards and incentives to drive refurbishment and renewal.

On 31 January 2011,1 announced a £5 million growth and housing market renewal transition revenue fund. The primary aim of this fund was to help safeguard and

develop expertise and capacity in key growth and former housing market renewal locations.

But I also want to implement measures to tackle the "ghost streets" created by the last Government's programme. On 9 May 2011, I announced a £30 million capital fund to help families trapped in abandoned streets resulting from the pathfinder demolition schemes. This funding was targeted at the five most challenged former housing market renewal areas—Merseyside, East Lancashire, North Staffordshire, Hull and Teesside—where the lowest quartile house prices have remained well below the average for that part of the country, and where surrounding housing markets are weak. As part of their bid, local councils were asked to set out clear exit strategies showing how former housing market renewal commitments could be unwound or transferred to other regeneration schemes.

In response to the bids from local authorities, I have decided to make an additional £5.5 million available—bringing the total fund to £35.5 million. This means that all families in streets or blocks that are more than 50% vacant will be helped. This £35.5 million fund will be match funded by local councils in these five areas, giving overall funding of £71 million.

Table of Payments

Council	*Total Capital Grant**
Hyndburn	£2.3m
Blackburn with Darwen	£1.8m
Burnley	£1.4m
Pendle	£1.4m
Hull	£3.3m
Liverpool	£9.3m
Sefton	£3.4m
Wirral	£2.7m
Stoke-on-Trent	£3.6m
Middlesbrough	£2.4m
Hartlepool	£2.0m
Stockton-on-Tees	£1.5m
Redcar and Cleveland	£0.3m
Total Capital Payments	*£35.5m*

*Rounded to the nearest £0.1 million

The payment of this transition funding and unwinding of remaining housing market renewal commitments therefore draws a line under the last Government's flawed programme.

However, it is important that we continue to support housing and regeneration in places which have previously experienced severe housing market challenges. My Department and the Homes and Communities Agency will continue to work closely with all former housing market renewal areas, whether or not eligible to bid for the transition fund.

In addition to ending the Whitehall obsession with demolitions, we are taking a series of steps to get empty homes back into beneficial use, as outlined in the Government's housing strategy published on Monday 21 November.

HEALTH

Abortion (Costs)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): In response to detailed enquiries about the information provided in answer to previous parliamentary questions on the cost of providing abortions in the NHS in England the Department has concluded that it should change the methodology it uses to produce estimates of the costs of abortions.

There are discrepancies between the activity figures for abortion returned to the chief medical officer and the data submitted as part of the reference cost collection, which is the Department's wider collection of NHS cost and activity data. As a result of this, and the lack of detailed information about the price NHS organisations pay to independent sector providers for the provision of abortion, we will, in future, estimate the costs to the NHS of providing abortion using the activity figures provided to the chief medical officer and an average of the national tariff paid within the NHS for procedures including abortion. This is likely to overestimate total costs as we are aware that contracts with independent sector providers are generally at a lower price than the national tariff.

The table below shows the data used to produce previous estimates of abortion costs and the revised approach:

Time period:	*Previous Method* *2009-10 financial year*			*New Method* *Activity: 2010 calendar year Tariff: 2010-11 financial year*		
Sources:	*Reference cost collection*[4,5,6]			*CMO abortion statistics*[6,7] *Payments by Results Tariff*		
	Reported activity	*Unit Cost (£)*	*Total cost (£m)*	*Reported activity*	*Tariff (£)*	*Total cost (£m)*
NHS[1]	118,000	695	83	64,000	680	44
Independent[2]	18,000	420	8	109,000	680	75
Total[3]	136,000	660	90	173,000	680	118

Notes:
[1]NHS provider
[2]NHS funded but delivered by independent sector provider
[3]The totals may not sum due to rounding
[4]Published on the Department's website—
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123459. The NHS data are from the "NHS trust and PCT combined reference cost schedules". The independent data are from "Non NHS provider schedules". The following HRGs have been included—MA17C, MA17D, MA18D, MA19B AND MA20Z.
[5]Not all spontaneous abortions are included (HRG MB08Z)
[6]England data
[7]The 2010-11 Combined Daycase/Elective and Non-Elective Tariffs have been used.

NHS Operating Framework for 2012-13

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): Sir David Nicholson, the NHS chief executive, is publishing "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2012-13" today, which sets out the priorities for next year.

The NHS operating framework is an annual publication that outlines the business and planning arrangements for the NHS. It describes the national priorities, system levers and enablers needed for NHS organisations to maintain and improve the quality of services provided, while delivering transformational change and maintaining financial stability.

There are four key themes in the document for this year:

the NHS has put quality of care for older people at the head of its priority list for 2012-13. They will get better care and be treated with more dignity. And the friends and relatives who care for them at home will get more support;

the need to maintain the NHS's continued strong performance on finance and service quality, including ensuring that the NHS constitution right to treatment within 18 weeks is met;

the need to create the foundations for sustainable delivery against the quality, innovation, prevention and productivity (QIPP) challenge; and

the need to complete the transition to the new delivery system set out in "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS".

The NHS operating framework sets out the practical steps that need to be taken to carry the NHS through a strong and stable transition over the next year, maintaining high quality standards and financial grip, as we move towards the new modernised system envisaged in "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" (Cm 7881).

A copy of "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2012-13" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Equality and Human Rights Commission (Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am today laying before Parliament the Equality and Human Rights Commission's 2010-11 annual report and accounts. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing (Changes)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): On the 30 June the Department for Transport launched a consultation on proposals to change the charging regime at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing. The consultation closed on 23 September.

The consultation made reference to increasing the charges during November 2011 and again in April 2012.

I am pleased with the number of responses received and the level of engagement from local communities. In recognition of the number of representations made and to allow the Department time to carefully consider the responses further, I can advise that there will be no increase in either November 2011 or April 2012.

A final decision on the timing of future rises and a full response to the consultation will, subject to Cabinet Committee clearance, be announced early next year.

Strategic Road Network (Review)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): As the House will know, as part of the spending review settlement in October 2010, the then Secretary of State agreed to carry out an independent review to examine whether Government have the right approach to operating, maintaining and enhancing the strategic road network.

Alan Cook, the non-executive chairman of the Highways Agency has led this review and has today published his report. The report can be found at: www.dft.gov.uk/publications/strategic-roads-network and an electronic copy has been lodged with the House library.

I am grateful to Alan and his team for producing such a comprehensive report and welcome its publication. The review report proposes some fundamental reforms to how the network should be managed, the role of Government in relation to the network and the future relationship between the Department and Highways Agency, including the agency's status.

Although I must carefully consider the report before providing a full and informed response, I intend that my response be made as soon as possible, in order to enable the agency and Department to move forward with certainty and confidence regarding any changes that are to be made. My response will therefore be completed in early 2012.

I recognise the potential benefits that greater financial autonomy may bring and I am also pleased to see that Alan is of the view that road users' needs are put at the heart of considerations around specifying future performance requirements for the network. This is an important step in ensuring the network meets the real needs of users as a key customer of the network.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention (Persons with Disabilities)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I am pleased to announce that today the first United Kingdom Government report on implementation of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities was submitted to the United Nations.

This is an important milestone. The report sets out the progress we have made across the United Kingdom and the approach to delivering the Government's commitment to equality for disabled people.

Going forward, the Government are now developing a new disability strategy to take forward the obligations of the UN convention, and to ensure disabled people have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. We will involve disabled people in this process and I will be setting out my approach shortly, with a view to publishing the strategy next year.

I am also pleased to announce that the Government are withdrawing the UK's reservation entered against article 12.4 of the convention. This reservation was entered because the existing social security benefit appointee system lacked appropriate safeguards in the arrangements to enable the appointment of a person to collect and claim benefits on behalf of someone else. Following the development and piloting of a proportionate system of review to address this issue, which involved disabled people, we introduced the system in October this year and it is being rolled out to cover all appointees. We believe that we have met the requirements of article 12.4 and accordingly the reservation entered against this article will now be withdrawn.

Work Capability Assessment

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Government are pleased to announce the publication of Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), the second of five such annual reviews required by statute.

This is a substantial and thorough review of the WCA which the Government welcome. It details how the WCA has improved over the last year and makes a number of recommendations to further improve the process. Alongside the review, the Government are publishing their response setting out how we will implement Professor Harrington's recommendations.

The WCA is a key part of our ambitious welfare reform programme. It seeks to identify people with the potential to work so they can make more of their lives and enhance those of their families, rather than abandoning them to a life on benefits.

Professor Harrington's first review found that the WCA was not broken but set out a series of recommendations to improve each part of the process. In his second review he has found that the WCA has improved and commends the Department for the way it has implemented the recommendations from his first review. He also highlights areas where further work is required, building on changes to date, to continue to improve the WCA.

We are committed to continuing to review the WCA and to make changes where necessary to ensure it is as fair and effective as possible. We have invited Professor Harrington to continue in his current role as independent reviewer for a third and final year and to make further recommendations to us as appropriate by the end of 2012.

Copies of both documents will be available later today in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 25 November 2011

TREASURY

Rural Fuel Rebate Pilot Scheme

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): I am today announcing that the Government have secured EU clearance for a rural fuel rebate pilot scheme. The scheme will apply a 5p per litre discount on petrol and diesel in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Northern Isles, the islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly.

The scheme will provide much-needed relief to these remote island communities. Pump prices in these areas are particularly high due to the high costs of transporting and distributing fuel.

The Government intend to introduce a retailer-based scheme. Registered retailers will be required to reduce their selling prices of road diesel and petrol by 5ppl. Retailers will claim a 5ppl rebate on the fuel they purchase, by submitting a monthly claim to HMRC.

To support retailers in covering the initial costs of the scheme HMRC will provide an up-front rebate. From 1 January 2012, retailers will be allowed to claim a 5ppl refund on fuel purchased in each of their first two months in the scheme without having to pass on the discount to customers. Following this, retailers will then be required to fully pass on the 5ppl discount. This design will ensure that there are no adverse cash-flow problems for the retailers and that from 1 March 2012 motorists will benefit from a 5ppl reduction in pump prices.

HMRC have today published the draft legislation for the pilot scheme.

CABINET OFFICE

Cyber-security Strategy

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I have today published the new cyber-security strategy for the United Kingdom. I have placed a copy in the Library.

The growth of the internet has transformed our everyday lives.

But with greater openness, interconnection and dependency comes greater vulnerability. The threat to our national security from cyber-attacks is real and growing. Organised criminals, terrorists, hostile states, and "hacktivists" are all seeking to exploit cyberspace to their own ends.

This Government have moved swiftly to tackle the growing danger posed by cyber-attacks. Our national security strategy published last year classed cyber-security as one of our top priorities alongside international terrorism, international military crises and natural disasters. To support the implementation of our objectives we have committed new funding of £650 million over four years for a transformative national cyber-security programme (NCSP) to strengthen the UK's cyber-capabilities.

The new cyber-security strategy we have published today sets out how the UK will tackle cyber-threats to promote economic growth and to protect our nation's security and our way of life.

One of our key aims is to make the UK one of the most secure places in the world to do business. Currently, around 6% of the UK's GDP is enabled by the internet and this is set to grow. But with this opportunity comes greater threats. Online crime, including intellectual property theft, costs the UK economy billions each year. So we must take steps to preserve this growth, by tackling cybercrime and bolstering our defences, to ensure that confidence in the internet as a way of communicating and transacting remains.

The Government cannot tackle this challenge alone. The private sector—which owns, maintains and creates most of the very spaces we are seeking to defend—has a crucial role to play too. This strategy outlines how we will cement a real and meaningful partnership between the Government and private sector in the fight against cyber-attacks, to help improve security, build our reputation as a safe place to do business online, and turn threats into opportunities by fostering a strong UK market in cyber-security solutions.

Together with the private sector, we are pioneering a new national cyber-security "hub" that will allow the Government and businesses to exchange information on threats and responses. This promises to transform the way we manage cyber-attacks and greatly strengthen our security capacity. We will work with the business services sector to raise industry awareness. We will also work with industry to develop private sector-led standards for cyber-security that help consumers navigate the market in security products and give firms which are good at security the means to make it a selling point.

The UK is a world leader in cyber-security research, development and innovation. GCHQ is the lead in this area and the new strategy aims to capitalise on this through an innovative approach which will explore options with UK industry to harness this expertise and know-how for the benefit of the UK economy.

This strategy also outlines our plans for a new cybercrime unit with the National Crime Agency, to be up and running by 2013. This unit will build on the groundbreaking work of the Metropolitan police's e-crime unit by expanding the deployment of "cyber-specials", giving police forces across the country the necessary skills and experience to handle cybercrimes. We will also ensure that the police use existing powers to ensure that cybercriminals are appropriately sanctioned as well as introducing a new single reporting system to report financially motivated cybercrime through the existing Action Fraud reporting centre.

To defend against significant threats we need to continue the work we are doing to protect and prepare our critical national infrastructure. We also need to update our military defence capabilities for a new cyber-world; this strategy outlines the creation of a new joint cyber unit hosted by GCHQ which will develop our military capabilities to give the UK a comparative advantage in cyberspace.

We will also strengthen the role of the Centre for Protection of the National Infrastructure to increase its reach to organisations that have not previously been

considered as part of the critical infrastructure, thereby augmenting our ability to protect critical systems and intellectual property.

Prevention and education are also crucial. Get Safe Online is a very good example of how Government, industry and law enforcement can work together to address this issue and improve the website by early 2012. In addition, we will work with ISPs to seek a new voluntary code of conduct to help people identify if their computers have been compromised and what they can do about it.

Cyber-risks are transnational in nature. We will work with other countries to tackle them. Through the London cyber conference, hosted by the Foreign Secretary earlier this month, the UK is taking a lead in addressing international discussions on how we can establish a more focused international dialogue to develop principles to guide the behaviour of Governments and others in cyberspace. We will continue to foster this level of international dialogue through various forums and through international co-operation on tackling cybercrime.

This strategy sets out the change that is needed; we now need to work together to deliver it. The Government will update the House in a year's time on how we are doing.

EDUCATION

Music Education

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): "The Importance of Music: A National Plan for Music Education" has been developed jointly by the Department for Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport following a review of music education in England by Darren Henley, managing director of Classic FM, published on 7 February 2011. The Departments intend to publish the plan today.

The plan sets out a vision for music education—to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to play music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence.

Key announcements are for:

- Department for Education funding, to 31 March 2015, available for music education on an area-by-area basis.
- Funds distributed to music education hubs following an open application process, conducted by Arts Council England operating as a fund holder.
- A new Initial Teacher Training add-on module to boost new teachers' skills and confidence in teaching music.
- Development of a music educator qualification ensuring the wider music work force is better skilled, more professional and recognised for their role in and out of school.
- Continued Department for Education funding, matched by Arts Council England, for the successful In Harmony Sistema England programme, targeting children and communities in areas of exceptional deprivation.
- A national plan monitoring board, chaired by and answerable to Ministers, to hold those responsible for delivery across the national plan to account.

A national network of music education hubs, building on the existing music education provision, will bring together partnerships between music services, schools, education and arts organisations. Hubs will deliver at least some core roles, which are to:

- Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching.
- Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

Copies of "The Importance of Music", together with funding allocations, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consulate General (Recife)

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): I wish to update the House on recent changes to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas network. The Foreign Secretary said in the House on 11 May, *Official Report*, column 1165, that there will be no strategic shrinkage of Britain's diplomatic influence overseas. He announced plans for the opening of up to six new embassies and seven new consulates general in emerging powers, including in Recife, Brazil. We are further strengthening our network by sending more diplomats to a total of 22 countries. The Foreign Secretary made clear in a speech in London on 8 September that he intends to strengthen the long-term capability and international effectiveness of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and to improve our country's capacity to pursue effective foreign policy for decades to come.

So I am pleased to confirm to Parliament the inauguration on 28 November of a British consulate general in Recife in north-east Brazil. The consulate general will open up opportunities for Britain in this gateway city to the dynamic north-east of the country. There are existing British interests in the region's petrochemical industry, and growing co-operation in education and culture. An expanded presence on the ground will enable Britain to increase co-operation in a range of areas.

North-east Brazil is currently the most economically dynamic region in the country. Pernambuco State, of which Recife is the capital, is leading the regional charge, with 8.4% GDP growth in 2010. The whole region has a population of 50 million. Over the last eight years north-east Brazil has undergone an intensive economic diversification process. To sustain growth, the region needs to invest heavily in infrastructure and other areas where the UK can offer expertise.

The United Kingdom first had a diplomatic presence in Recife as early as 1808. The consulate general will be a considerable upgrade from the small consulate and British Council office in the city and is part of our

conscious diplomatic advance in Latin America. We are putting more staff on the ground to expand co-operation on trade and investment, science and innovation and cultural links, as well as to strengthen our consular service in Brazil.

As the Foreign Secretary said in the House on 11 May, the strength of our embassy network is a signal to the world of our engagement and commitment to international peace and security. By strengthening Britain's diplomatic network in Brazil, we will ensure that the UK has the necessary reach and capacity to respond quickly and effectively when British companies need our assistance or British nationals are in danger. The extension and strengthening of our global diplomatic network, with staff who have the necessary abilities and diplomatic skills, are key objectives of this Government and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have made funding these goals a priority.

Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I would like to inform the House of measures being taken by the United Kingdom in relation to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). These measures were formally announced in the treaty's Joint Consultative Group in Vienna on 22 November.

Since December 2007, we have continued to fulfil our CFE treaty obligations, and attempted to exercise our treaty rights. We, our North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies and other states parties to the treaty have also made considerable efforts to engage the Russian Federation in negotiations aimed at finding a mutually acceptable resolution, but without success.

The Russian Federation has failed to fulfil its obligations under the treaty since December 2007 to provide information to the United Kingdom and other states parties and to allow entry to the Russian Federation in order to verify that the information provided was correct. The United Kingdom, alongside other NATO allies, has repeatedly called on the Russian Federation to return to full compliance with its treaty obligations. We and other NATO allies publicly stated at NATO summits in Strasbourg/Kehl and Lisbon that a situation where 29 states parties fulfilled their treaty obligations and one did not could not continue indefinitely.

As a result, alongside a number of CFE treaty signatories, the United Kingdom announced that for as long as the Russian Federation fails to fulfil its obligations towards the United Kingdom under the CFE treaty, we will cease fulfilment of our key obligations towards the Russian Federation. In effect the United Kingdom:

> Will no longer provide information to the Russian Federation in the annual data exchange that takes place under the terms of the CFE treaty on 15 December;
>
> Will no longer provide any notifications to the Russian Federation under the terms of the CFE treaty;
>
> Will no longer accept inspections requested by the Russian Federation pursuant to the CFE treaty.

The United Kingdom remains committed to conventional arms control in Europe and will continue to fulfil our treaty obligations with respect to all other states parties to the CFE treaty. We will also continue to abide by and respect the numerical limitations on conventional armaments and equipment established by the treaty.

We remain open to negotiations with the Russian Federation should they demonstrate a willingness to address constructively the key issues which are currently preventing progress.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Youth Contract

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): I am pleased to announce today the details of a new Youth Contract, which includes a range of additional help for unemployed young people, building on the support already available through Jobcentre Plus and the Work programme.

This will include more intensive support for all 18 to 24-year-olds including additional adviser time and weekly signing requirements, extra work experience and sector-based work academy places, and a new wage incentive scheme delivered through the Work programme.

We are also making extra funding available for the Department for Education to support the most vulnerable NEET 16 and 17-year-olds into learning, an apprenticeship or job with training.

The package of support follows extensive discussion with businesses about the practical help Government can provide to make it easier for them to take on fresh talent. The new support is worth nearly a £1 billion over the next three years.

The Government's offer to young people who are unemployed is based on a clear strategy for supporting young people into work whether they need short-term or more intensive long-term support, and ensuring that work pays.

This is supported by work experience, apprenticeships, sector-based work academies, the Jobcentre Plus Flexible Support Fund and an increasingly robust conditionality and sanctions regime. Young people who need more intensive support or who become long-term unemployed are referred to the Work programme.

The support we already have in place is helping many young people into employment, indeed our existing programmes will support 350,000 young people over the next two years. However, we recognise that the current economic situation means that some young people are still finding that getting work is not easy. This new support is designed to ensure that they are not left behind.

We know that different young people need different types of support, so this package includes a range of measures to ensure that every 18 to 24-year-old who finds themselves unemployed has the right support, at the right time, to help find a job and move into employment.

The Youth Contract brings together our existing support and also announces new measures, which include:

> A total of 160,000 wage incentives to make it easier for employers to take on young people aged 18 to 24. A wage incentive will be worth £2,275, available as part of the Work programme. This will be more than enough to cover the cost of an employer's National Insurance contributions for employing a young person for a year, and exceeds the recommendations by the CBI in their recent report on youth unemployment.

An offer of a work experience place for every unemployed 18 to 24-year-old who wants one, before they enter the Work programme. We are providing an additional 250,000 places.

Extra support through Jobcentre Plus in the form of weekly, rather than fortnightly, signing-on meetings; more time to talk to an adviser and a careers interview with the National Careers Service.

At least 20,000 extra incentive payments worth £1,500 each for employers to take on young people as apprentices.

A new £150 million programme for the most vulnerable NEET 16 and 17-year-olds to get them learning, on an apprenticeship or in a job with training.

The measures differ from previous schemes over the last decade, as they are focused on equipping young people with the experience and opportunities to gain long-term sustainable employment.

We are providing more support and more opportunities for young people but we also expect more in return. The signing regime will be more demanding of them than the current one. And those that drop out of a work experience place or a subsidised (or other) job without good reason will lose their benefits.

The Department for Work and Pensions components of the Youth Contract are Great Britain-wide, with Barnett consequentials for Northern Ireland. Apprenticeships and the Education Department component for 16 and 17-year-olds are England only with Barnett consequentials included in the package for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 28 November 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Service College (Key Performance Indicators 2011-12)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): The following key performance indicators have been agreed for the Fire Service College as part of the 2011-12 business planning round and performance against them will be reported in the college's annual report and accounts:

Limit the financial year 2011-12 operating loss before interest to £3.6 million;

Achieve a reduction in fixed staff costs compared to financial year 2010-11 of £0.3 million;

Achieve 80% in "Good" and "Excellent" scores for United Kingdom customer satisfaction for achievement of learning objectives;

Achieve 80% in "Good" and "Excellent" scores for United Kingdom customer satisfaction for the overall learning experience;

Short-term staff sick absence, measured over the financial year, to be no more than four days per employee at the financial year's end;

To embed health and safety awareness throughout the organisation by reducing accidents by 10% and increasing near miss reporting by 15% compared to financial year 2010-11.

The core role of the college is to support national resilience by providing safety critical operational, command and leadership training, and professional support to the fire and rescue service. These indicators support that core purpose and the work which the college is undertaking with the Chief Fire Officers Association and the wider fire and rescue service to develop and deliver a common and consistent approach to operational and leadership training within an accredited framework in order to improve interoperability, training assurance and resilience.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council will be held on 28 and 29 November in Brussels. Culture, audiovisual and sport issues will be taken on 29 November. The Deputy UK Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht, will be representing the UK for the culture and audiovisual sections of the Council. Shona Robison, Scottish Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, will represent the UK for the sport section of the Council.

Audiovisual

The first item on the agenda will be the agreement on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the signing of the European convention on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access. Agreement to this decision would enable the EU Council to sign the European convention so as to widen the scope of the provisions of the EU Directive, 98/84/EC on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access, to apply to the Members of the Council of Europe who are not also Members of the European Union. A number of UK TV rights holders support this move so that piracy can be tackled in more countries. It is expected that a formal agreement on the proposal will be reached at the Council meeting.

The Council will be invited to adopt conclusions on the protection of children in the digital world. These conclusions highlight the challenges raised in relation to electronic media and the protection of minors, in particular those linked to the uptake and growing importance of online services. The UK will support the adoption of these conclusions.

Culture

The Council is expected to adopt Council conclusions on cultural and creative competences and their role in building the intellectual capital of Europe. These conclusions invite member states to consider raising awareness of the role that the development of cultural and creative competences can have in areas such as education, youth, training, employability, growth, innovation, research and lifelong learning. The UK will support the adoption of these conclusions.

There will be a discussion of a presidency paper on the contribution of the cultural sector to economic recovery and growth, job creation and social development and enhancing the evidence base. The paper asks member states questions on the collection and use of statistics in the cultural sector at national level and the possible role or support at EU-level in this respect. The UK is seen as a leader in the EU in policy and statistical support for the cultural and creative industries and the Deputy Permanent Representative will intervene to outline UK practice in this area and how this work can best be taken forward at EU-level.

Sport

Under the sport section of the meeting, the Council will be invited to adopt a resolution on the representation of the EU member states in the foundation board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WAD A) and the co-ordination of the EU and its member states' positions prior to WADA meetings. The resolution sets out the system for representation at meetings of the WADA foundation board and the approval process for the agreement of an overall position of the EU and its member states in advance of these meetings. Previous concerns with the text around the co-ordination process and the presentation of the EU position on anti-doping matters have been addressed during negotiations and the UK intends to support its adoption.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions on the role of voluntary activities in sport in promoting active citizenship. The conclusions highlight and promote the invaluable role volunteers and voluntary activities play in sport. The UK supports the adoption of these conclusions.

Council conclusions on combating match-fixing will be presented to the Council for adoption. These conclusions invite member states to raise awareness of the detrimental effect of match-fixing on the integrity of sport and

encourage co-operation and information sharing between stakeholders in the combat against the practice. The UK will support the adoption of this text.

A policy debate will follow on good governance in sport. The presidency has asked member states to consider questions on the definition of good governance in sport and best practice at both national and international level. The UK will provide examples of best practice within the UK and outline support for action at EU-level only where there is clear added value for our sports bodies.

Under any other business the presidency will report on key events held under the Polish presidency of the EU. The Danish delegation will inform the Council on the priorities for their forthcoming presidency. The Commission will provide information on the state of play of the audiovisual sector in the digital age and present its recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation. I do not foresee a need to intervene on either of these.

Also under any other business, the UK delegation will present a short film on the London Olympics in 2012.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth) who is responsible for international security strategy will attend the Foreign Affairs Council in defence format on 30 November. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 1 December. I will attend the General Affairs Council on 5 December.

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, will chair the Foreign Affairs Council on 30 November and 1 December.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC): DEFENCE

European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board

Ministers are likely to discuss the work programme for 2012 and the plan for the next three years, the annual defence data report, the category B project on helicopter training and pooling and sharing. The UK will work with the agency and its member states to develop and improve the agency's effectiveness and performance, but will urge the EDA to be realistic about its budget requirements. Unless postponed, the EDA budget will be discussed as an agenda item in the Council meeting.

Operations

The three operation commanders will be present and will provide an update on Operation Atalanta (Counter-piracy off the horn of Africa to protect world food programme and vulnerable shipping). Operation Althea (Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and EU Training Mission Somalia (Military training mission to counter security threats in Mogadishu). There is also likely to be discussion between member states on possible future operations, with a likely focus on a training mission in the Sahel, a regional maritime capacity-building operation off the horn of Africa to strengthen local counter-piracy efforts, and potentially in full respect of the principle of Libyan ownership and in co-operation with the UN, further assistance to the new Libya. The extension of Operation Atalanta's mandate, which the UK supports, will be discussed during the session. We intend to indicate our support for the ongoing operations, and the need for an internationally recognised strategy for Somalia.

Joint Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers Dinner

The joint dinner (the first since the Lisbon treaty) is scheduled to focus on "hardware" of operations and capabilities, and software. The overarching theme will be effectiveness of common security and defence policy (CSDP) with a focus on force generation, reduced budgets and better tailoring of missions and operations. It is also likely that there will be further discussion of the Weimar nations' agenda. We will spell out the UK's vision for the future of CSDP: smarter operations and missions, more coherent use of EU military, civilian, diplomatic, humanitarian, and economic tools, and better EU-NATO relations, maintaining our insistence that the EU should not duplicate NATO. Underpinning this, we need member states to invest in deployable capabilities and focus on value for money. We will resist calls for the creation of any unnecessary additional institutions or processes. The dinner will also provide an opportunity to emphasise the benefits of closer UK-France defence and security co-operation, which we will promote as an example to encourage others to seek better value for money and improved capability through a similar partnerships approach. EU Foreign Ministers will discuss this further at their meeting on 1 December (see below)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

Western Balkans

Baroness Ashton is expected to brief on political elements of Western Balkans policy, focusing on: Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the Government remain concerned about the political situation; and Serbia and Kosovo, where the Government see normalisation of relations between the two countries as a priority, and support further progress in the EU-led dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade.

Iran

Following discussion at the 14 November FAC, Ministers are expected to further develop their response to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) report on Iran which highlighted grave concerns regarding the possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme. We are expecting the Council to agree to a list of new designations of Iranian entities and persons.

On 21 November, the UK Government imposed tough new financial restrictions against Iran which cut off all financial ties with Iranian banks. The Foreign Secretary said:

"The IAEA's report last week provided further credible and detailed evidence about the possible military dimensions of the Iranian nuclear programme. Today we have responded resolutely by introducing a set of new sanctions that prohibit all business with Iranian banks.

We have consistently made it clear that until Iran engages meaningfully, it will find itself under increasing pressure from the international community. The swift and decisive action today co-ordinated with key international partners is a strong signal of determination to intensify this pressure".

Southern Neighbourhood

We expect Ministers to agree conclusions taking stock of the EU's engagement with its southern neighbourhood, including implementation of the European neighbourhood policy. Ministers are also expected to be asked to welcome proposals to create a European endowment for democracy, which aims to support democratic reform in the EU's neighbourhood.

On Egypt, Ministers will take stock of the situation following the planned first round of elections. They will consider how the EU and its member states should react to the situation in Egypt, balancing concern at the recent violence with the need to encourage and support progress on the transition. Our objective is EU support for Egypt which will help to deliver political and economic reform.

Ministers will have an opportunity to discuss the current situation in Syria and co-ordination with the international community to end the violence. This might include a further, 10th round of sanctions against the Syrian regime. We have proposed the listing of 10 military officials involved in the ongoing violence around Homs.

Baroness Ashton is likely to brief Ministers on the latest political developments in Yemen. We expect conclusions to be adopted which welcome signature of the agreement, call on all parties to deliver on their commitments, and state that the EU will continue to monitor the situation in Yemen. The Foreign Secretary welcomed the signing of the Gulf Co-operation Council initiative on 23 November. He said:

"We welcome the fact that today President Saleh has signed the GCC initiative committing to the transition of power within 90 days, after which he will stand down.

It comes after months of deterioration of the situation in Yemen, and will give hope to the Yemeni people that change in their country is possible.

We now call on all political leaders and forces in Yemen to commit to a peaceful and orderly political transition. Both the supporters of President Saleh and the opposition must seize this opportunity and comply fully with UNSCR 2014. We will review progress with other members of the Security Council in the coming days.

The Yemeni people have suffered for too long. The UK is committed to helping them tackle the many challenges involved in this transition.

We commend the Gulf Co-operation Council for their unrelenting efforts to facilitate today's agreement. President Saleh must now act on his commitment and implement the agreement in full".

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers are likely to discuss options for helping to relieve restrictions on Gaza. Our position is that we want an increase in the importation of construction materials to Gaza; an increase in exports from Gaza to Israel, the west bank and other countries; and a relaxation of restrictions of civilian movement between Gaza and the west bank. We also expect Baroness Ashton to brief on her three-pronged Gaza package and on the progress made in the 14 November Quartet envoys talks with the parties.

CSDP

Following the joint Foreign and Defence Ministers' discussion of 30 November (see above), we hope that discussion will continue, concluding with a set of Council conclusions that have a strong operational focus. Potential missions include training local security forces in the Sahel, a regional maritime capacity building operation off the horn of Africa to strengthen local counter-piracy efforts, and possibly an offer of further assistance to the new Libya in full respect of the principle of Libyan ownership and in co-operation with the UN. We will indicate our continuing support for counter piracy efforts and the need for an internationally recognised strategy for Somalia.

Iraq: Camp Ashraf

Baroness Ashton is expected to raise the issue of the future of the (Iranian) residents of Camp Ashraf in Iraq, as the Government of Iraq's deadline to close the camp at the end of the year draws closer. We will underline our support for the UN's role in resolving the issue, and stress the responsibility of the Government of Iraq to find a solution which respects the human rights of the residents of Camp Ashraf.

Human Rights

Baroness Ashton is expected to update Ministers on the state of play of the draft EU human rights strategy. She is likely to confirm that she will present the strategy to the European Parliament on 14 December. The draft strategy will issue as a joint High Representative/ Commission communication. It will be considered further by member states before it returns to the Foreign Affairs Council for substantive discussion in the first quarter of 2012. Member states are procedurally unable to amend the content of a communication, so are likely to endorse the strategy through Council conclusions. We will provide further information to the chairs of the relevant committees in the House of Lords and House of Commons on the progress of the strategy.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

Preparation for the December European Council

Ministers will prepare the December European Council, the agenda for which will cover three issues; economic policy, energy, and enlargement. The accession treaty with Croatia will be signed in the margins.

i.) *Economic Policy*. The situation in the eurozone is likely to dominate debate. Ministers will discuss an interim report from President Van Rompuy, in line with October European Council conclusions, on the steps to strengthen the economic union in the euro area. This will explore the possibility of limited treaty change among other issues. Measures to enhance EU economic growth will also be discussed.

The conclusions of the October European Council meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/125496.pdf

ii.) *Energy*. Ministers will review progress on the agreement reached at February European Council which set out a series of measures to be taken forward on energy policy. There will be an opportunity to follow up on the findings of the nuclear stress tests.

The conclusions of the February European Council meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119175.pdf

iii.) *Enlargement* (see also below). Ministers will discuss the Commission's enlargement package of 12 October. The report recommended: (i) candidate status for Serbia if it re-engages in the dialogue with Kosovo; (ii) opening

accession negotiations with Montenegro; (iii) tasking the Commission to develop a "new approach" to enlargement negotiations.

Multi-annual Financial Framework

Ministers will review progress made on the technical discussions made under the Polish presidency to clarify the Commission's multi-annual financial framework proposals. There will be an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the revenue generating elements of the package, which have been discussed at committee level throughout November. The package includes changes to the UK abatement and new EU taxes.

Enlargement

Ministers will seek to agree conclusions taking stock of progress on EU enlargement and on the stabilisation and association process in the Western Balkans. The Government believe the Commission communication to be a broadly fair and balanced assessment. We will seek conclusions reconfirming support for EU enlargement and recognition that the accession process gives strong encouragement to political and economic reform in the enlargement countries and reinforces peace, democracy and stability in Europe. We agree with the Commission's view that progress towards the EU should be based on the principles of consolidation of commitments, fair and rigorous conditionality, and good communication with the public. We agree that key challenges remain for most enlargement countries, for example, the rule of law, and in particular the fight against corruption and organised crime. We also support a focus on the criteria of regional co-operation, particularly for the Western Balkans countries.

On individual countries. Parliament on 22 November debated the closure of chapter 23 of Croatia's accession negotiations, and Croatia's accession to the EU. A draft Council decision on Croatia's accession to the EU has been released and is due to be adopted by the GAC on 5 December, before signature of the accession treaty in the margins of the European Council on 9 December. On Turkey, we will want conclusions that provide a fair assessment of progress and inject much needed momentum into the process. On Iceland, we want the Council to commend the progress Iceland has made in accession negotiations this year. Conclusions will also need to address existing obligation, such as those identified by the European Free Trade Association Surveillance Authority under the European economic area agreement.

Following the FAC discussion of 1 December (see above), the GAC will return to the Western Balkans and discuss the Commission's enlargement package for the Western Balkans countries. I set out the Government's views on the Commission's reports in my explanatory memorandum of 7 November. We remain fully supportive of the future of all the western Balkans countries in the EU once conditions are met. We will take a final decision on the UK position on the opening of accession negotiations with Montenegro before the December European Council. We will also take a final decision on the proposal to grant Serbia candidate status, based on their progress on Kosovo, including in the dialogue. We will take the opportunity to support further steps to provide a tangible EU perspective to Kosovo.

The European Commission work programme for 2012

The European Commission will make a short presentation to Ministers of its work programme for 2012.

TRANSPORT

Search and Rescue Helicopters

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): I wish to inform the House of the Government's intentions for the future of the search and rescue helicopter service in the UK. Following the cancellation of the SAR-H private finance initiative in February, the Department for Transport will today publish a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union to commence procurement for a new UK-wide service contract.

My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary has agreed that the new contract will provide a search and rescue capability provided by civilian crews, enabling our armed forces to focus activity on their front-line operations.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force crews have shown great dedication and professionalism in delivering an exemplary search and rescue service for many years, and we owe them all great thanks for this. Looking forward, we are confident that, building on nearly 30 years of civilian service provided under contract to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), a fully civilian service will be able to maintain the same standards in the future.

This competition will procure a contracted search and rescue helicopter service for the whole of the UK, for a period of approximately 10 years. The Royal Air Force and Royal Navy will continue to provide search and rescue coverage until the replacement for this capability is in place, and it is my intention that the contract I let will require this to be the first part of the new service to become operational. This will ensure that the Ministry of Defence is able to meet its previously announced intention to withdraw from service and retire its fleet of Sea King helicopters by March 2016. The replacement for the capability currently provided by the MCA will follow on from this. This transition will ensure continuity of service.

Bidders for the future service will be able to put forward options which will utilise a mixed fleet of modern helicopters based on the capabilities required at each of the bases (such as range, carrying capacity and endurance). The services will be capable of delivery by different contractors providing complementary services.

The introduction of a modern fleet of fast, reliable helicopters will lead to major improvements in the capability available from the present mix of helicopters. Modern helicopters operating from 10 full-time bases can not only continue to meet all current service requirements but also provide faster flying times to a large part of the UK search and rescue region, as well as providing a more reliable service. This will therefore be reflected in the new contract.

It is my intention that search and rescue operations will cease at RAF Boulmer in 2015 and at MCA Portland when the interim arrangements that were announced in July expire. Other operations at RAF Boulmer will be unaffected by this.

Given the complexity of the issues that need to be considered by bidders during the procurement, I intend that this procurement will be undertaken using the competitive dialogue procedure. As far as is practicable

however, I intend to run the competition using lean procurement principles during some stages of the procurement. This will, I hope, both expedite and simplify some stages of the procurement that would ordinarily be time consuming and costly for industry to participate in.

I expect to award a contract in early 2013 to give the future service provider time to mobilise the new capability.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health and Safety Regulation

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): On 21 March 2011 the Government announced the launch of an immediate review of health and safety regulation overseen by an independent advisory panel chaired by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, director of the King's Centre for Risk Management at King's College, London.

The Government are pleased to announce the publication today of Professor Löfstedt's report "Reclaiming health and safety for all: an independent review of health and safety legislation".

The professor's report is based on a thorough examination of the available evidence, including analysis of existing research, a call for evidence which attracted 250 responses, and meetings with key stakeholders. Professor Löfstedt also considered comments submitted to the red tape challenge website during the health and safety spotlight period over the summer.

Good health and safety is vital to good business. Sensible and proportionate health and safety regulation can support economic growth by maintaining a healthy and productive workforce. However, to be effective, and to provide genuine protection for workers and the public, regulation needs to be easy to understand, administer and enforce. The Government are committed to simplifying health and safety legislation to ease the burden on business and encourage growth.

Professor Löfstedt's report sets out a number of risk and evidence-based recommendations to reduce the requirements placed on businesses where they do not lead to improved health and safety outcomes. The Government support the recommendations and are publishing alongside the report their plans for implementation.

A copy of the document will be available in the Vote Office later today.

Further details are available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety/#review.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 29 November 2011

TREASURY

Employer Asset-backed Pension Contributions

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government announced at Budget 2011 that they would consult on changing the tax rules in relation to employer asset-backed contributions to registered pension schemes. These contributions involve an employer making a series of payments guaranteed with security over the assets from which the payments derive. The joint HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and HM Treasury consultation took place between May and August, and sought views on options to ensure that excessive tax relief would not arise from the way in which some of these pension contributions were structured.

Following the consultation, the Government have today published legislation that will be introduced in the Finance Bill 2012 to change the tax rules for giving relief to employers in relation to asset-backed pension contribution arrangements.

The Government are keen to continue to allow the use of asset-backed contributions, given the flexibility they can offer to employers and their pension schemes in managing pension deficits, while protecting the Exchequer from tax risks.

The changes announced will therefore ensure that the amount of tax relief received by an employer making these contributions accurately reflects, but does not exceed, the amount of payments received by the pension scheme. This means that employers will not gain unintended, excessive tax relief.

Because of a significant risk to tax revenue, this legislation will have effect from 29 November 2011.

The Government's response to the consultation has been published alongside the legislation and tax information and impact note. These are available from the Budget 2011 pages of the HMRC website and the Finance Bill 2012 pages of the HM Treasury website.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 30 November 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

Annual Growth Survey

The Commission will present the Annual Growth Survey (published 23 November) for information. The Government support the document's strong positive messages on both fiscal consolidation and the need for ambitious structural reforms. However, the Government recall that member states and the EU have a shared responsibility for implementing structural reforms in support of growth. The Government also consider that tax policy is a matter for individual member states to decide, and does not consider that tax co-ordination in the EU is a priority for stimulating growth.

Second economic governance package

The Commission is expected to present three elements of a new package: a proposal for a regulation on enhanced surveillance of euro area member states that are either experiencing severe financial disturbance or requesting financial assistance; a further proposal for a regulation for enhanced budgetary co-ordination and surveillance of euro area member states, especially those that are already the subject of action under the excessive deficit procedure set out in the treaty; and a green paper setting out three options for the issuance of "stability" bonds in the euro area, which is intended to launch a public consultation on this subject. The Government are considering the proposals and options.

Economic and financial impact of EU legislation

The Council will discuss draft conclusions on the presidency's proposal that ECOFIN should assess the impact of new EU legislation on growth and jobs. The Government support this objective.

Annual Report of the Court of Auditors on the 2010 EU Budget

The European Court of Auditors will present its report. It will be examined early in 2012, in advance of an ECOFIN vote on a recommendation for the European Parliament to grant discharge of the EU's accounts for 2010. The Government consider that the failure to achieve a positive statement of assurance on the majority of payments from the EU budget year after year is unacceptable, and undermines confidence in the implementation of EU expenditure.

EU Statistics

Ministers will discuss draft conclusions on proposals to strengthen statistical governance. The Government support the general principles underlying these proposals; however, they will seek to work with other member states to ensure that national specificities are properly taken into account as the legislation passes through Council.

Council will also seek agreement on nominations to the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board.

Code of Conduct (business taxation)

ECOFIN will adopt conclusions on the work of the code of conduct group over the last six months. The code of conduct is an EU-level political agreement between member states to work co-operatively to identify and eliminate harmful business tax measures in the EU and prevent the introduction of new ones. The code group's report is a standing ECOFIN agenda item at the end of each presidency.

Economic situation, including banking package

Ministers will discuss the economic situation. In particular, they will focus on the appropriateness of an EU-level co-ordinated approach to bank funding guarantees, as agreed at the European Council on 26 October. The European Commission currently sets a range of minimum criteria and guarantee fees under the state aid framework and the Commission is expected to present options for further co-ordination of bank funding guarantees provided by national Governments.

The Government believe decisive action is needed to bring stability to the markets and provide the basis for long-term debt sustainability. The Government support the principle of co-ordinated bank funding guarantee schemes, conditional on maintaining national control over the provision of these guarantees. However, the Government would not support any proposals that expose the UK to the liabilities of banks elsewhere in the EU.

Nomination procedure for the EIB President

Ministers will discuss the nomination procedure for the EIB president. Philippe Maystadt, the current EIB president, was appointed in January 2000. It is permissible for him to be re-appointed when his current term ends in December 2011. Other candidates are standing.

TRANSPORT

Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): I am delighted to make this statement together with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about the importance of rail freight and the need for a network of strategic rail freight interchanges to support growth and create employment.

The UK logistics industry makes a significant contribution to the national economy, generating around £110 billion annually and employing more than 2 million people. The rail network transports over 100 million tonnes of goods per year. It is of strategic importance—rail freight delivers over a quarter of the containerised food, clothes and white goods, and delivers nearly all the coal for the nation's electricity generation. Rail freight has expanded by 60% over the last decade, and is expected to grow by a further 30% up to 2019.

Over recent years, rail freight has started to play an increasingly significant role in logistics and has become an important driver of economic growth. Given the right conditions, the Government believe that rail freight could make an even stronger contribution to the country's economic recovery.

The Government support the transfer of freight from road to rail, where it is practical and economic to do so and fully recognise that rail freight can generate valuable benefits for society where it provides an alternative to road haulage. Rail can deliver goods quickly, efficiently and reliably and help reduce both congestion on our roads and levels of carbon emissions. To secure this longer-term growth and modal shift, rail needs to be able to compete effectively with the use of road by heavy goods vehicles, and it is significant that in recent years our major retailers have been keen to choose rail over road for the long distance carriage of goods to market.

However, this expansion in rail freight will be very difficult to deliver unless the industry is able to develop modern distribution centres linked into both the rail and trunk road system—"Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges"(SRFI)—in appropriate locations to serve our major conurbations. To date, this has proved extremely problematical, especially in the south-east where growing demand and increasing congestion on the road network are creating serious logistical challenges.

The Government believe that an expanded network of SRFIs, complemented by other freight interchanges and terminals, is needed to support longer-term development of efficient rail freight distribution logistics. While SRFIs operate to serve regional and cross-regional catchment areas, they are also key components in national and international networks. These networks are of strategic importance in facilitating links between UK regions and the European Union.

The Government are therefore taking measures to unblock the development of strategic rail freight interchanges and unlock the necessary private sector investment in such facilities. Pending the publication of the Department for Transport's consultation document on the national networks national policy statement (NPS), a statement of current strategic rail freight interchange policy has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and published on the Department's website. It may be used by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) in its decision making on the development consent applications for SRFI infrastructure that fall within the definition of a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) as defined in the Planning Act 2008.

In parallel, the Department has asked Network Rail to provide industry support to the development of a network of SRFIs, working collaboratively with the wider logistics industry to: speed up the delivery of SRFI sites to meet business demand; assist with funding mechanisms (potentially including Network Rail funding); and establish appropriate delivery vehicles for rail infrastructure elements of such proposals.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 30 November 2011

EDUCATION

Industrial Action in Schools

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Industrial action, today, has had a severe impact on schools across the country and has caused disruption to children's schooling and to parents and employers. At the same time, we know that many dedicated professionals have worked hard to keep schools open where they could.

The Department for Education has collected data about school closure from local authorities, academies and free schools to assess the impact of today's industrial action.

There are 21,476 state-funded schools in England (maintained schools, academies, free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools). Some 13,349 (62%) were reported to be closed, 2,951 (14%) were reported to be partially open and 3,351 (16%) were reported to be fully open. The situation with a further 1,825 (8%) has not been reported to us or the local authority did not know.

Of the 20,027 maintained schools, 12,526 (63%) were reported to be closed, 2,536 (13%) were reported to be partially open and 3,140 (16%) were reported to be fully open. The situation with a further 1,825 (9%) was not reported or was reported as unknown.

Of the 1,449 academies (including free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools) 823 (57%) were reported to be closed, 415 (29%) were reported to be partially open and 211 (15%) reported to be fully open. There are 24 free schools, of which four were reported closed, one was reported partially open and 19 were reported to be fully open.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Post-Energy Council Meeting

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 24 November. Fergus Ewing, Scottish Minister for Industry, Tourism and Energy, also attended.

The Council began with a report by the presidency on the progress of discussions of the energy efficiency draft directive. Denmark noted that the directive would be a high priority for their presidency from January 2012.

There was a debate on the draft regulation on infrastructure. I expressed the UK's support for the proposal and noted the need for better cross-border permitting procedures to create a fully integrated EU market, as well as the importance of regional groupings such as the North sea countries' offshore grid initiative. A number of member states also registered their support for the proposal while noting the need for it to respect other areas of EU legislation, such as environmental rules and member state competence.

The Council agreed conclusions on external energy relations, following interventions by a number of member states. The Commission reported on a number of international relations items, including providing a brief summary of the latest situation on the southern corridor, negotiations with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and with Russia.

The Commission gave a presentation of the draft regulation on offshore oil and gas activities. I welcomed the overall intention of the proposal to increase safety but expressed concern over the use of a regulation. Other member states expressed concerns.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the effects of changes in member states' domestic energy policies on their neighbours, continuing a similar discussion at the informal Energy Council in Wroclaw in September.

Denmark briefly outlined its plans for its presidency. Its energy priorities will be the energy efficiency directive and the 2050 energy road map.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I and my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for Agriculture and Food, represented the UK on agriculture matters at the Agricultural and Fisheries Council on Monday 14 November. The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), represented the United Kingdom on the fisheries items. Richard Lochhead MSP, Michelle O'Neil MLA and Alun Davies AM were also in attendance.

The first item for discussion was the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the external dimension of the common fisheries policy. The Commission emphasised the twin objectives of ensuring sustainable management of fisheries resources while maintaining a "level playing field" across member states and third countries in order to ensure a viable EU fishing fleet. There was general support for common principles such as the need to fish sustainably, the desire for EU vessels to only use what is surplus to local requirements, ensuring coherence of the CFP with EU development policy and the need for transparency from third countries about fishing activities in their waters.

On specific issues, a number of member states expressed concern about the effect on economic viability of increasing the vessel owners' contributions towards paying the costs of access rights; while others, including the UK, could support an increase in owners' contributions, or owners covering the full costs.

In order to ensure a "level playing field" a number of member states called for third-country producers to be liable to the same social and environmental obligations as EU producers. The UK, along with France, Germany, Belgium and Ireland, expressed support for trade measures being taken against those countries who were not fishing sustainably.

The Danish presidency will take this forward as part of the CFP reform package in 2012.

The main agricultural item on the agenda was further discussion of the Commission's proposals for reform of direct payments under pillar 1 of the common agricultural policy. Member states were asked for views on the proposed structure of pillar 1, and on the Commission's plans for convergence of payment rates within and between member states. There appeared to be a developing consensus that the overall structure of the Commission's proposals was too complex and that greater national flexibility was required for member states to respond to specific needs within their own territory.

On the detail of the proposal, a number of items were raised by member states. On greening of direct payments, even those member states who did generally accept the principle questioned the bureaucratic burden it would place on farmers and national administrations. On support for young or small farmers, many member states called for the provisions to be voluntary for member states.

When considering the move to a single payment rate within individual member states (or regions), the UK and France were in a group of member states who accepted the end goal, but thought the Commission's proposals moved too quickly, particularly in the first year. However, some member states remain opposed. On the issue of the convergence of payment rates between member states, Ministers were split between those who will lose and those who will gain.

There were five any other business items. The first was information from the Commission on implementation of the conventional cage ban as set down in the laying hens directive. The Commission announced that it would be writing to member states to seek confirmation of compliance with the ban, which comes into force on 1 January 2012, or to ascertain how compliance will be reached. This letter will be the first step towards infraction proceedings against non-compliant member states. The Commission noted progress at a meeting of officials on 28 October considering a workable, non-legally binding, agreement to tackle the issue of large-scale non-compliance with the conventional cage ban across the EU. For the UK, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State intervened to state that such an agreement which would need to include, as a minimum, a list of compliant and non-compliant producers from member states, action plans for compliance spanning no longer than six months (which would also prevent member states from placing new hens into conventional cages), clear marks to identify non-compliant eggs, and restriction of trade for these egg and egg products to the country of production. The majority of member states that have complied with the rules were against any form of compromise agreement.

In conclusion, the Commission reiterated its commitment to start infringement proceedings from 1 January 2012 but considered progress on an informal agreement as the best and quickest way to ensure full compliance from member states.

The next AOB item was a report from France on the food for deprived persons scheme. France stated that it had agreed a joint declaration with Germany agreeing continuation of the food for deprived persons scheme until the end of 2013. The declaration also stated that neither country believed that the conditions were in place for a similar scheme to be supported from the EU budget beyond 2013. The presidency concluded that there was now a qualified majority in favour of the proposal, and would aim for formal legal agreement at the December Agriculture Council.

Hungary presented the next AOB item, a paper, supported by France, Lithuania, Austria and Romania, arguing for an extension to the sugar quota system beyond 2015. Six other member states supported this call, arguing that it would provide stability of production and to allow expansion to meet demand. The UK led the counter-argument against a continuation of quotas, supported by Slovenia, Ireland and Latvia.

The presidency presented a paper on the Ryn "Forestry for climate and biodiversity" conference, and noted forthcoming international negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.

The final AOB item was another presidency paper reporting on the 30th conference of the Directors of paying agencies of the EU; the key conclusion of the conference had been the need for further progress on simplification.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 1 December 2011 in Brussels. I will represent the United Kingdom on all agenda items.

There will be two ongoing negotiations at this Council. In the first negotiation the presidency is seeking a political agreement to the extensions of the crisis derogations to the European globalisation adjustment fund. I will stress that the UK does not believe that the EGF is an effective or efficient instrument for managing large redundancies. While at this stage it is not possible to know how discussions will evolve, I will be seeking to protect UK taxpayers by reducing disbursements from this fund, in accordance with the position agreed with the parliamentary scrutiny Committees.

In the second negotiation, the presidency is seeking a general approach to a proposal amending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004. In this negotiation I will seek to support the presidency in achieving a general approach. I will reiterate that a broader debate is needed on social security for

migrants. I will also support the Commission's suggested broader review of the co-ordination of unemployment benefits.

There will also be a policy debate on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in the field of employment and social policy. The debate will be informed by three papers: the Commission's annual growth survey (including the joint employment report), a set of conclusions on the European semester and an opinion of the Social Protection Committee on the social impact of the crisis. I will welcome the annual growth survey and emphasise the need for all member states to have a credible and determined approach to structural reform, including through credible fiscal consolidation measures, opening up of markets and deeper growth-friendly labour market reforms.

There will be a progress report on three topics: minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields), the pregnant workers directive and the equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

In addition, Ministers will consider two sets of Council conclusions, covering ageing as an opportunity for the labour market and the development of social services and community activities, and the review of the implementation of the Beijing platform for action.

The Commission will also present a report on the functioning of the transitional arrangements on the free movement of workers from Bulgaria and Romania.

Under any other business the presidency and Commission will provide the key messages from the first annual convention of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion. The presidency will provide information on the legislative proposals in the area of migration (single permit, intra-corporate transfers and seasonal workers) and will report on the informal meeting of Ministers for family and gender equality. The Commission will also provide an update on the review of the working time directive, the posting of workers directive, and the state of play on the European debate on women on company boards.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 1 December 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Further Education Reforms: Building a World Class System

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): The Government are today publishing "New Challenges, New Chances: Further Education and Skills System Reform Plan: Building a World Class Skills System" and the underpinning skills investment statement for 2011-2014, copies of which are being sent to all hon. Members and placed in the Library.

Our vision is for a further education and skills system in England freed as far as possible from central bureaucratic burdens, thus able to respond more effectively to the needs of local learners and employers and so make the maximum possible contribution to renewed growth.

Our plan is based on 10 key policy commitments:

1. We will empower learners—from basic through to higher-level skills—to shape the system through their participation. First-class information will inform their choices, with Government funding focused on supporting students where it can have most impact.

2. We will launch a national careers service in April 2012 to provide information, advice and guidance which both informs and stimulates demand for further education, work-based training and higher education. Lifelong learning accounts will equip learners with the information they need to make the most of their learning opportunities.

3. We will create a vocational pathway as navigable, rigorous and attractive as the academic route, so recalibrating the character of higher learning.

4. We will develop and promote excellent teaching, by establishing an independent commission on adult education and vocational pedagogy to develop a sector-owned strategy and delivery programme. We will also facilitate an independent review of professionalism in the FE and skills work force.

5. We will take further action to ensure that qualifications are of high quality and comprehensible, by improving awareness of the qualifications and credit framework—consulting employers on their engagement in qualification development—and by consulting on the character and function of national occupational standards.

6. We will take action to remove restrictions and controls on college corporations, creating new roles for governors, working closely with other educational providers in post-14 learning, with local stakeholders taking the lead in developing delivery models to meet the needs of their communities.

7. We will continue our programme to free the FE system from central control, building upon the successes already achieved, including further work by the Skills Funding Agency with colleges to remove bureaucratic burdens.

8. We will provide £3.8 billion a year of public funding to the sector and we will create a simple transparent funding system that is both robust in ensuring funding enables high-quality provision that delivers good value for money, and which responds to local needs.

9. We will empower students by providing better access to quality information to make informed choices, determined by a better understanding of opportunities for further learning and employment destinations. Simultaneously, to assure quality, we will take swift action in relation to failing provision, providing intensive support and, if necessary, intervening to ensure that alternative and innovative delivery approaches are secured for the future.

10. We will build on the growing international demand for practical, technical and higher-level vocational skills. Inspired by the legacy of our achievements at WorldSkills 2011, we will stimulate and support the sector to take advantage of opportunities in the global market.

EU Competitiveness Council (Pre-Council Written Ministerial Statement)

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement.

The EU Competitiveness Council will take place in Brussels on 5 and 6 December 2011. I shall represent the UK on internal market and industry issues on 5 December, and my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science will represent the UK on research issues on 6 December.

The internal market and industry substantive agenda items on 5 December will be: a policy debate on enhanced co-operation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection; a policy debate on unitary patent protection with regard to the applicable translation arrangements; agreement of general approach for proposals for a directive regarding interconnection of central, commercial and companies registers; a presentation by the Commission regarding business competitiveness and SME programme; a policy debate on a unified patent court and draft statute; adoption of Council conclusions for the industrial policy flagship initiative; adoption of Council conclusions on impact assessment in the Council; an exchange of views on results from the single market forum; and; adoption of Council conclusions regarding customs co-operation with eastern neighbouring countries.

A number of other items will be discussed under AoB. This will comprise of Commission presentations and updates on the following:

European shipbuilding;

Proposal for a regulation on European standardization;

Proposal to align product harmonisation directives to decision 768/2008 (NLF);

Results of the European tourism forum and informal ministerial meeting;

Results of the conference on the implementation of lead markets initiative and the European innovation partnerships (Warsaw, 26-27 October 2011);

Single Market Act implementation;

Services directive: state of implementation;

Consumer market scoreboard;

Proposal for a regulation on a European observatory on counterfeiting and piracy;

Proposal for a directive on the protection of orphan works;

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning customs enforcement of intellectual property rights;

Proposal for a directive on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and proposal for a regulation on online dispute resolution (ODR);

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a consumer programme (2014-2020);

Cohesion policy;

REACH: Report and review in the light of EU competitiveness; and

REACH and the candidate list of substances of very high concern;

Work programme of the incoming Danish presidency.

The research substantive agenda items on 6 December will be: a presentation and exchange of views of the framework programme for research and innovation (Horizon 2020); a Commission overview on progress towards agreeing the Euratom framework programme for 2012-13; adoption of Council conclusions regarding launching of joint programming initiatives on "Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans"; "The microbial challenge—An emerging threat to human health"; "Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU)"; "Urban Europe—Global Challenges, Local Solutions"; "Water Challenges for a Changing World"; and adoption of Council conclusions on partnering in research and innovation. There will also be an adoption of space Council orientations on the value of space for the security of European citizens.

The research, space and any other business items will comprise of information from the Commission regarding active and healthy ageing; a presentation by the Commission on the European earth monitoring programme (GMES); information from the Hungarian delegation regarding the Budapest declaration on agricultural research; and information from the presidency regarding the report on the high level ministerial group on simplification.

The Government's objectives for the Council are:

To contribute to a debate on political aspects of the patents package (the patent regulation, languages regulation and the unified patent court);

Confirm agreement with Council conclusions or general approaches with respect to companies registers, industrial policy and customs co-operation;

Further progress on impact assessment in Council;

Express the UK's initial views on the Horizon 2020 proposals; and

Agree new joint programming initiatives and conclusions on partnering in research and innovation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

New Homes Bonus

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today, I am pleased to announce the delivery of 159,000 more homes over the last year, and £431 million of Government funding to local authorities.

The new homes bonus is a powerful, simple and transparent incentive for housing growth. It is a key part of the housing growth focus of our national housing strategy, which we published on 21 November. Commenced in April 2011, the bonus is based on the council tax of additional homes and those brought back into use, with an additional amount for affordable homes, for the following six years. It ensures that those local authorities which promote and welcome growth can share in its economic benefits, and build the communities in which people want to live and work.

The bonus will be paid in respect of 159,000 homes from October 2010 to October 2011 including 137,000 extra homes and 22,000 long-term empty properties brought back into use. The allocations also include the first affordable homes enhancement, which totals £21 million in respect of 61,000 new affordable homes.

This means we will pay councils £431 million of provisional new homes bonus for local authorities in England. This includes the second instalment of £199 million in respect of year 1 and £232 million for housing growth in year 2.

We are committed to ensuring that the bonus remains a flexible, non-ringfenced fund, for local communities to spend as they see fit—from reinvesting it in housing or infrastructure, support local services or local facilities, or using the funds to keep council tax down. Local authorities are best placed to understand the barriers to growth in their areas, the needs of their local communities and lead a mature debate about the benefits that growth can bring. There are already good examples of local authorities using the bonus in a variety of ways. For example Wychavon is returning up to 40% to the community where growth is taking place. Liverpool are reinvesting in a commitment to deliver 2,000 new homes. The Vale of White Horse is investing in business growth by making the car parks free in the three local market towns of Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon.

The new homes bonus is a key part of our ambition, set out in the local growth White Paper, to create a fairer and more balanced economy through encouraging growth. It will sit alongside the Government's proposals to allow local authorities to benefit from economic growth by the local retention of business rates. Our reformed community infrastructure levy allows local authorities to ensure development contributes to the infrastructure needed to support growth and will give people a real say in spending to deal with the impacts of growth on their neighbourhoods.

On top of these provisional allocations, we will address any loss of new homes bonus in areas affected by last summer's riots through riot recovery funds.

Local authorities will have until 30 December to make representations on their provisional allocations. The Department has written to local authorities with details for making representations on their authority's provisional allocations and I have also written to all Members of Parliament in England.

A full list of the provisional allocations is being placed in the Library of the House. Further information on the bonus, including the first "New Homes Bonus Bulletin—Unlocking the Bonus" can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus.

A copy of the bulletin is also in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

School Admissions and School Admission Appeals Codes

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): I am today laying the revised "School Admissions and School Admission Appeals Codes" ("the Codes") before Parliament as required under section 85 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Subject to the views of Parliament, these codes will come into force on 1 February 2012. A copy of these codes has also been published on the departmental website, so that schools and local authorities can take account of the technical changes that have been made to the codes since their publication on 2 November.

The White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", outlined the intention to

"simplify the code so that it is easier for schools and parents to understand and act upon, while maintaining fairness as the guiding principle".

As part of the consultation process we consulted on a number of key policy changes that are set out below, all of which are intended to deal with issues which we believe create unfairness in the system, or which frustrate or confuse parents.

The current codes have evolved over a number of years with successive versions adding further regulations in a chaotic and unplanned fashion. As a result, the admissions system has grown unnecessarily complex and bureaucratic, comprising some 130 pages of densely worded text, with more than 650 mandatory requirements. These revised codes are less than half the size of the previous codes and are simpler, fairer and easier to understand. We have removed much of the repetition and unnecessary material, whilst retaining the key safeguards to ensure that school places can be allocated in a clear and transparent manner.

The Department consulted extensively on the codes from 27 May to 19 August and received more than 1,330 responses with 700 from parents, as well as a wide range of interested parties, including local authorities, dioceses and head teachers. Overall, respondents broadly welcomed the proposals to slim down the codes.

These codes make a number of changes to the current codes:

Giving greater freedom to schools to increase the number of places they are able to offer by removing the duty to consult locally and the ability to object when a school increases its admission numbers;

Ensuring that any child who leaves public care through adoption, a residence order or special guardianship order, will continue to be given the same priority although they are no longer looked after by the state;

Making the co-ordination of admissions to primary schools administratively simpler through a single date, 16 April, each year when offers of school places are made from 2014 onwards;

Allowing schools to prioritise the children of staff either employed at the school for at least two years, or who will meet a clear skills shortage;

Allowing infant classes to exceed the statutory limit to avoid separating children from a multiple birth, and for children of armed forces personnel admitted outside of the normal admission round;

Allowing schools to take direct applications from parents for in-year applications;

Prohibiting the use of random allocation as the principal method of allocating places across a local authority area;

Requiring admission authorities to consult on unchanged arrangements only every seven years, rather than three;

Reflecting changes in the Education Act 2011, allowing anyone to object to the schools adjudicator about admission arrangements, and enabling objections about academies' admission arrangements to be referred to the schools adjudicator; and

Greater clarity on decision-making and related processes for appeals, to ensure greater uniformity and to reduce costs across the system.

In addition, as highlighted in the code, but achieved through individual funding agreements, we will be allowing academies and free schools to prioritise pupils eligible for the pupil premium.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Nuclear Energy (Government Responses)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will today publish two documents that further demonstrate the Government's commitment to managing our existing nuclear legacy and sites in a responsible manner:

the conclusions of its consultation on the long term management of UK-owned separated civil plutonium and;

our response to the recommendations for Government contained in the chief nuclear inspector's final report on events at the Fukushima nuclear site in Japan that was published on 11 October 2011.

Management of the UK's plutonium stocks

The consultation was published in February and set out for public scrutiny Government's preliminary view on the long-term management of the UK's plutonium. In particular, the consultation covered the security and proliferation sensitivities associated with continued storage of plutonium, and how these could best be managed in the interests of future generations.

The consultation document made it clear that, although there remain many issues to be resolved before any policy could be implemented, the UK Government believed that there was sufficient information available to make a high-level judgment as to the right strategic policy option for plutonium management. The Government therefore proposed a preliminary policy view to pursue reuse of plutonium as mixed oxide fuel (MOX); converting the vast majority of UK civil separated plutonium into fuel for use in civil nuclear reactors. Any remaining plutonium whose condition is such that it cannot be converted into MOX, will be immobilised and treated as a waste for disposal.

Having considered all responses received during the consultation period the UK Government have concluded that they have identified the right preliminary view. Accordingly, the Government confirm this as the preferred policy. While the UK Government believe they have sufficient information to set out a direction, it is not yet sufficient to make a specific decision to proceed with procuring a new MOX plant. Only when the Government are confident that their preferred option could be implemented safely and securely, that is affordable, deliverable, and offers value for money, will they be in a position to proceed with a new MOX plant. If we cannot establish a means of implementation that satisfies these conditions then the way forward may need to be revised.

The Government are now commencing the next phase of work, which will provide the information required to make such a decision. The next steps towards will see further information being gathered by the Government and NDA through detailed commercial discussions on the market for MOX fuel and the availability of reactors in which it can be burned. Other discussions will focus on detailing the costs and time scales for procuring services or facilities, including a suitable MOX plant, which can be delivered at minimum risk to Government.

Further workstreams will take forward the requirements for the justification of the whole MOX path from fabrication, through use to disposal, which will be required before UK Government can commit to spending significant capital on procuring a new MOX fabrication plant.

In addition, the Government have concluded that overseas owners of plutonium stored in the UK could, subject to commercial terms that are acceptable to UK Government, have their plutonium managed alongside UK plutonium, in line with a reuse policy. Where

appropriate and subject to compliance with inter-governmental agreements and commercial arrangements that again, are acceptable to Government, the UK would be prepared to take ownership of overseas plutonium stored in the UK after which it would be managed alongside UK plutonium, again in line with a reuse policy.

While converting the plutonium into MOX is the most credible and technologically mature option, the Government remain open to any alternative proposals for plutonium management that offer better value to the taxpayer, and will seek to gather more data on all options.

Copies of the consultation response have been placed in Libraries of both Houses or can be obtained from the DECC website.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/consultations/Default.aspx?status=2&area=0

Weightman report on events at the Fukushima nuclear site

I welcome the findings and recommendations in Dr Weightman's report and commend him and his team on the important work that they have undertaken in pulling together information and lessons from the events in Japan.

In the response the Government set out work we have done or intend to do in implementing Dr Weightman's recommendations, including:

> Continuing to work with our international partners on nuclear safety, particularly through the development of the IAEA director-general's "Action Plan".
>
> Taking forward work from the nuclear emergency planning liaison group review of the UKs national nuclear emergency arrangements in the light of the experience of dealing with the prolonged Japanese event.
>
> Ensuring that openness and transparency are enshrined in the work we are taking forward to create the ONR as a statutory body.

Copies of the Government response have been placed in Libraries of both Houses or can be obtained from the DECC website.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/nuclear/safety_and_sec/weightman/weightman.aspx.

The Carbon Plan

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): The Government are today publishing the carbon plan, setting out the Government's long-term plans to meet its carbon targets, including the fourth carbon budget set earlier this year. The plan shows how doing so will set us on a plausible pathway to our 2050 target to reduce emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels. The plan will help drive new high-value economic sectors and save billions through energy efficiency.

The carbon plan shows that UK emissions have already been cut by more than 25% on 1990 levels. With the policies already in place the economy will easily exceed the 34% target set for the first 15 years under the Climate Change Act, and would have done so even if the recession had not occurred. Meeting the fourth carbon budget of a 50% cut in emissions by the mid-2020s will not have any additional cost implications during this Parliament, but beyond that will galvanise jobs and investment during a decade of mass deployment of key technologies.

In the next decade, the UK will complete the cost-effective measures begun in the previous decade, in particular focusing on energy efficiency. We will also need to prepare for the future by demonstrating and deploying the key technologies needed to entirely decarbonise power, buildings and road transport in the 2020s and beyond. Rather than picking winners, the Government will support the development of a portfolio of technologies for each sector in order to drive innovation and lower costs. As part of the carbon plan, we are publishing the updated list of the key actions that each Government Department and the devolved Administrations are taking in each sector during the lifetime of this Parliament, to provide further transparency and accountability.

In the 2020s, these key technologies will move towards mass roll out. Developing options now will not only reduce the costs of deployment in the 2020s, but it will also enable the UK to gain a long-term competitive advantage.

Up to 2030 and beyond, emissions from the hard-to-treat sectors, such as industry, shipping and agriculture will need to be tackled. This will require a range of solutions to be tested in the 2020s at the latest, such as more efficient practices in agriculture; switching from oil and gas to bioenergy or low-carbon electricity in industrial processes; and deploying carbon capture and storage.

Today's package represents a significant step forward in our commitment of moving to a low-carbon economy. To the negotiators in Durban working this week and next to make progress on a global agreement on climate change, the carbon plan shows the UK is walking the walk, demonstrating that even in tough times it can be done and living up to our promise to show climate leadership.

To the public and businesses at home, rightly worried about the cost of living and state of the economy, the carbon plan shows that the gradual rebalancing of our economy away from carbon is achievable and, in the long run, highly desirable.

Our national economic interest is to be found in a cost-effective transition to low-carbon. Every bit of progress we make is one more step away from import dependency, away from the emissions that are likely to lead to savage weather impacts, and towards an economy that wastes less and saves more.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Live Animal Exports (Clarification of Minister's Comments)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): During a debate on 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 146, I made reference to a Mr Onderwater being prosecuted for cruelty following the earlier reference by the hon. Member for South Thanet (Laura Sandys) to business men who were involved with the operation of a livestock ferry at Ramsgate who had been convicted of animal cruelty. I regret the information I gave was not accurate and I wish to apologise to the House.

Mr Onderwater runs a Dutch registered company called Onderwater Agneaux BV. He pleaded guilty on behalf of his company at Folkestone magistrates' court on 5 July 2010 to six offences of not displaying any sign on his vehicles indicating the presence of live animals contrary to article 6(c) of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and article 6(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. The prosecutor was the trading standards department of Kent county council.

Mr Onderwater had also mis-described the cargo of live animals in consignment notes as seafood, frozen meat and boxed meat: the Crown court found this was in order to deceive the ferry companies. Mr Onderwater had been informed on several occasions that he was contravening the legislation by not displaying such signs yet the company continued to commit the same offence in the two months following first detection.

On 1 September 2009, 320 sheep were transported described as meat.

On 30 September 2009, an unspecified number of sheep described as meat for further processing.

On 11 November 2009, 240 sheep described as meat.

On 14 November 2009, 307 sheep described as seafood—Mr Onderwater was driving this lorry.

Also on 14 November 2009, 286 sheep described as boxed meat.

On 19 November 2009, 270 sheep described as frozen meat.

He was fined £1,000 for each offence, with costs of £4,355.

Mr Onderwater represented his company at an appeal against this sentence at Canterbury Crown court on 10 August 2010. On appeal the total fine remained at £6,000 but costs were reduced by £680 to £3,675. His Honour Judge O'Sullivan fined the company £400 for the first offence, £800 for the second offence, £1,000 each for the third, fourth and fifth offences and £1,800 for the sixth offence.

His Honour Judge O'Sullivan said in his sentencing remarks that there was no offence which involved "mistreatment of animals" but that the company's persistent offending despite being caught made it quite clear that the company had no intention of trying to abide by the regulations. The judge noted that there is a wider use for these signs to indicate the presence of live animals on vehicles and that it is important, for instance, in case of an accident that the cargo can be identified as being livestock so that the necessary measures for safeguarding the welfare of the animals can be put into operation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Protocol Providing for Additional Members of the European Parliament

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): Following ratification by all 27 member states of the European Union, the protocol amending Protocol No. 36 to the EU treaties on transitional provisions, which made amendments to the composition of the European Parliament, entered into force on 1 December 2011. The protocol was approved for the purposes of section 5 of the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008 by section 15 of the European Union Act 2011.

The protocol allotted to the United Kingdom one additional seat in the European Parliament. As the statement on 26 October 2010 by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr Harper) set out, the Electoral Commission undertook an independent analysis to determine which European electoral region in the United Kingdom the new MEP should be assigned to. As a result of its analysis the Electoral Commission, in compliance with its obligations under the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003, decided that the west midlands should be the recipient region. The Government accepted this recommendation.

The returning officer for the west midlands region referred to the results of the 2009 European elections, as if the extra seat had been available in the west midlands electoral region in those elections. This method of filling the seat is in accordance with the terms of the protocol and is in line with the practice of most of the other member states which gain additional MEPs under the protocol. In accordance with the procedure set out in schedule 2 of the European Union Act 2011, the returning officer has declared Anthea McIntyre to be returned as the additional MEP for the west midlands.

This is an interim measure until the next elections to the European Parliament take place in June 2014. At those elections all UK MEPs, including the MEP for this extra seat, will then be elected in compliance with the normal procedure.

JUSTICE

Legal Aid Reform (Competitive Tendering)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government set out their intention to introduce competition for the procurement of legally aided services in "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" (November 2010). The consultation paper stated that the immediate focus would be on criminal legal aid, with civil and family legal aid to be addressed over a longer period. The response to the consultation (June 2011) stated that proposals for criminal legal aid competition would be published in a separate consultation paper during 2011. This statement provides an update on the Government's position in relation to competition and criminal legal aid services, and a timetable for future activity.

The Government believe that competitive tendering is likely to be the best way to ensure long-term sustainability and value for money in the legal aid market. Pressure on legal aid expenditure is likely to continue, increasing the need for further reform of the current arrangements for administratively set remuneration rates in the absence of competition.

The Government believe that tendering criminal defence work for competition, alongside regulatory changes, has the potential to significantly modernise legal aid provision, improve the service provided to legal aid clients, streamline the procurement process and deliver value for money for the taxpayer.

Clearly the development of a competition strategy will be likely to have a substantial impact on the market for legally aided services, as will a number of other current developments. These changes will require significant

levels of engagement between the Government and the profession. We plan to begin these discussions in early 2013 once the key components of our legal aid reform package, the regulatory changes allowing alternative business structures, and the introduction of the quality assurance scheme for advocates have had time to bed down. We will publish a full formal consultation document on the competition strategy towards the end of that year. The indicative timetable for the development of our competition strategy is therefore as follows:

Consultation paper published:	Autumn 2013
Response to consultation paper:	Spring 2014
Tender opens in first competition areas:	Autumn 2014
First contracts go live:	Summer 2015

I would also like to inform the House that we intend, subject to parliamentary approval of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, to implement all of the legal aid reforms in April 2013. This will include the abolition of the Legal Services Commission under the Bill and the creation of the new agency in its place.

PRIME MINISTER

Libya Crisis

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I am today publishing in full the National Security Adviser's review of how the Whitehall machine operated during the Libya conflict and what lessons we can learn, in keeping with the commitment I made to the House on 5 September.

I told the House on 21 March that I believed that military intervention was necessary, legal and right to protect the people of Libya from the brutality of the Gaddafi regime, and I pay tribute to the courage and professionalism of our armed forces during this conflict. There remains much to do to secure a successful transition to a peaceful and prosperous democracy, and we will continue to assist the interim Libyan Government. But our armed forces, our diplomats and development experts who re-established the British presence in Benghazi and Tripoli, and all those in the UK who contributed to the success of the international effort, can be proud of the part they have already played.

The National Security Council proved its worth in ensuring effective co-ordination of this country's contribution throughout the crisis in Libya. But it is always right to learn the lessons after any conflict. In addition to the areas where things went well, Sir Peter Ricketts' review has also highlighted a number of lessons for future conflicts, including the importance of swift evacuation of UK nationals; integrating better economic analysis and policy more prominently at the early stages of conflict planning; and establishing a clearer cross-Government process for the negotiation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Copies of the review of lessons learned from Libya have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The review is also available on the No. 10 website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Maintenance Calculation Regulations 2012

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I am today publishing a consultation document on the calculation methodology for the new statutory child maintenance scheme, to be launched next year.

The Government want to encourage and support parents to make their own family-based arrangements, but are committed to providing a statutory service for those separated parents who are unable to co-operate.

As part of our programme of reforms, the existing Child Support Agency schemes will be replaced over time with a new, efficient scheme for those parents who are unable to make their own arrangements.

The aim of the new scheme is to produce a faster, more accurate and transparent process for assessing child maintenance payments. Payments will usually be based on the non-resident parent's latest tax year gross income, sourced directly from HM Revenue and Customs. This will make the scheme less dependent on information from non-resident parents and so make it harder for non-resident parents to avoid their responsibilities by not disclosing their full income.

Annual reviews will ensure that cases are kept up to date in a way they are not on the current CSA schemes.

I am also announcing two proposals today which would provide particular benefit to parents with care, who are generally mothers with children.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 provided for the flat rate paid by non-resident parents on benefit and low income to be increased from the current £5 to £7. I am today consulting on whether this should be increased further to help ensure more children receive the financial support they need.

I am also consulting on achieving a fairer situation for children to get closer to equalising the financial support for children living with, and those living apart from, the non-resident parent.

The consultation document, the impact assessments and draft regulations will be available on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) and Department for Work and Pensions websites later today. A link to the CMEC website is attached below.

Copies of the consultation document and the impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/consultations.html.

EEA Opt-in Decision

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Government are committed to the free movement of workers within the European economic area, and also to protecting the sustainability and affordability of our welfare systems. As part of that commitment we want to ensure that non-active migrants

from outside the EU cannot gain access to welfare if they have never worked or paid contributions in the United Kingdom.

In considering proposals to amend the social security provisions of the EEA agreement, we took the view that the proposals would have the effect of extending social security co-ordination to non-active persons moving between the EU and EEA. Furthermore, the proposal was based on treaty powers for the co-ordination of social security schemes in relation to the free movement of workers within the EU (article 48 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union), whereas the provisions related to free movement between the EU and the EEA states.

In focusing on the nature and content of the proposal rather than the cited legal base, the Government came to the conclusion that the appropriate legal base was article 79(2)(b) TFEU, which allows the EU to adopt measures concerning the free movement rights (including social security rights) of third-country nationals. Article 79(2)(b) lies within title V of part III of the TFEU, and so the Government considered whether they wanted to opt in to the measures; and we concluded that we did not want to opt in.

In negotiations we continued to argue for a change to a title V legal base, and that the UK's position be reflected in the text, but were unsuccessful. The decision on the position to be adopted by the EU was put to the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council in June 2011. The Government expressed our serious concerns over the legal base for the proposal, and noted our right to take further action. The Council decision was none the less adopted, and a further decision giving effect to the measures was adopted in the EEA Joint Committee on 1 July 2011.

In parallel with these processes, we considered across Government the options, including legal action, open to us and we have decided to take direct action in the European Court on the basis that the article 48 legal base is incorrect and that the Council decision is therefore invalid. That action was initiated on 16 August by submitting an application on behalf of the UK to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

I believe this action demonstrates how seriously the Government take our obligation to protect our rights under the treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

Mobility Component in Residential Care

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): The Government are today announcing that the mobility component of disability living allowance will not be removed from people living in residential care homes and that the mobility component of personal independence payment, which will replace disability living allowance, will also be payable at both the standard or enhanced rate to people in residential care homes provided they satisfy the entitlement conditions.

In the spending review 2010 it was announced that, from October 2012, the disability living allowance mobility component would be withdrawn from people in residential care homes after 28 days. Our aims have always been to ensure not only protection of public funds but also that disabled people who live in residential care homes retain their independence and are not prevented from getting out and about.

In response to concerns raised about this proposal, the Government announced that they would not remove the mobility component from people in residential care homes from October 2012 and that it would look again at the underlying evidence and gather more, before reaching a final decision on the way forward for the new personal independence payment. We have now gathered and reviewed further evidence, including the helpful contribution provided by Lord Low's review. Although this does show that the issue of mobility needs for people in residential care homes presents a complex and varied picture there was insufficient evidence of overlaps in funding provision to justify the withdrawal of the mobility component.

Having listened to the concerns raised and carefully considered the evidence, the Government will now table an amendment to the Welfare Reform Bill for consideration at Lords Report stage to remove the provision which allows for withdrawal of the mobility component of personal independence payment from residential care home residents.

UK Disability Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): I am pleased to announce that today the discussion document, "Fulfilling Potential", was published. This sets out the Government's vision of enabling disabled people to fulfil their potential and have opportunities to play a full role in society.

"Fulfilling Potential" invites disabled people and their organisations to help shape future policy and develop a cohesive new cross-Government disability strategy. This will be a key part of our commitment to breaking down the barriers to social mobility and equal opportunities faced by disabled people in Britain today.

"Fulfilling Potential" outlines three main areas for discussion: realising aspirations, increasing individual control and changing attitudes and behaviours. It seeks practical ways of making a real difference to disabled people's lives, even in these difficult economic times.

The Government inherited a wide range of relevant strategic thinking including the Life Chances report, the Independent Living Strategy, and the Roadmap 2025. We will build on this and on the UK's commitment to the UN convention on the rights of disabled people. We will work closely with the devolved Administrations to share best practice and strategic approaches.

Following a three-month engagement period, we will publish our new strategy in spring next year.

Welfare Reform Bill (Conditionality and Sanctions Contingency Fund Advance)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Department of Work and Pensions has obtained approval for an advance from the contingencies fund of £800,000 to allow for the development of IT. This amount is part of the proposed investment in conditionality and sanctions changes of £3 million agreed at the time of the spending review.

In October 2012, the conditionality and sanctions project will introduce a claimant commitment, designed to give greater clarity to claimants about the consequences of failing to comply with their job seeking or work

preparation requirements. This will be underpinned by a more robust sanctions regime with tougher sanctions for repeated non-compliance, and a revised hardship regime. These changes will align current key benefits with the proposed policy for universal credit, which will simplify the migration of existing claims on to universal credit from 2013.

The advance from the Contingencies Fund will allow essential work to commence on detailed process design and IT changes, to enable the implementation of the new conditionality and sanctions regime in advance of universal credit.

Parliamentary approval for additional resource and capital of £3 million for this new service will be sought in the supplementary estimate for the Department for Work and Pensions. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £800,000 will be met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund.

Petition

Tuesday 22 November 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Petition of teachers in the Cynon Valley,

Declares that the Petitioners note that the Teachers' Pension Scheme, along with other schemes, was reformed in 2007 to ensure sustainability and viability for the long term, declares that the Petitioners reject the Government's claim that such schemes are unaffordable and a drain on taxpayers, further declares that the Petitioners believe that proposed changes to public sector pensions, including those of teachers, lecturers, principles, head teachers and vice-chancellors working in maintained schools, academics, independent schools, universities and teaching colleges are unjustified and declares that the Petitioners believe that continuing Government changes to these pensions will be deeply damaging to staff recruitment, retention, mobility, morale and motivation and will jeopardise the education of all children and young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to withdraw its proposals on reform of teachers' pensions, and conduct a valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Ann Clwyd.*]

[P000985]

Petition

Monday 28 November 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Social Care for Older People

The Petition of Rotherham Pensioners' Action Group,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about social care for older people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to implement a fair and equitable system of care for the elderly, without imposing a financial burden on those requiring care.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Healey, Official Report,* 26 October 2011; Vol. 534, c. 434.*]*

[P000969]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

"The Coalition: our programme for government" set out the Government's clear commitment to reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers, and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face.

Since then the Government have taken a number of steps to improve social care provision in England and has committed to publishing a Care and Support White Paper in the spring.

In October 2010, the Government prioritised funding for adult social care in the spending review, allocating an additional £2 billion per annum by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care.

The Government followed this by publishing their "Vision for Adult Social Care" in November 2010, which set a new agenda for adult social care in England. It focused on commitments to: break down barriers between health and social care funding to incentivise preventative action; extend the rollout of personal budgets to give people and their carers more control and purchasing power; and use direct payment to carers and better community-based provision to improve access to respite care.

The Government have also set out their position in relation to strategies published by the previous Government through the Carers' Strategy refresh and a revised implementation plan for the previous Government's Dementia Strategy.

More recently, the Government have received two independent reports that make recommendations on how to reform the system.

In May 2011, the Law Commission's review into the legal framework for adult social care reported making a series of recommendations to Government for the wholesale reform of the law.

The Commission on Funding of Care and Support, set up by the Government when they came into power, reported in July 2011 with recommendations for changes to how the cost of care is shared between the individual and the state as a partnership. The Government have welcomed this report, which is an immensely valuable contribution to meeting the long-term challenge of an ageing population.

The Government are now engaging on a broad range of areas for social care reform that covers the recommendations from these two reports and more. This will inform a Care and Support White Paper and progress report on funding reform to be published in the spring.

Petition

Tuesday 29 November 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Guisborough Royal Mail delivery Office

The Petition of residents of Guisborough,

Declares that the Petitioners are opposed to the closure of the Guisborough Royal Mail Delivery Office and the Government's policy of Royal Mail privatisation; further declares that the Petitioners feel that there has been no meaningful consultation with the community, local businesses, the workforce and their trade union, the Communication Workers Union; and declares that no proper reasons have been given for the proposed closure of what the Petitioners believe is the most efficient delivery office in the Teesside area.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that Royal Mail consults with local partners and reviews the proposed closure of Guisborough Delivery Office accordingly.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tom Blenkinsop, Official Report,* 9 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 410.]

[P000977]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

The Government appreciate the hon. Lady's concern for the planned restructuring of Royal Mail's delivery operations in the Guisborough area. However, such matters are the responsibility of Royal Mail's senior management team. The Government, in their capacity as shareholder, do not play a role in such operational decisions and cannot intervene.

The restructuring of Royal Mail's delivery operations, not just in Guisborough but right across the UK, forms part of its much needed national programme of modernisation. This modernisation programme is aimed at ensuring that it has the right delivery infrastructure in the right locations so that it can deliver the universal service as effectively and efficiently as possible. Given the very real challenges facing the business, modernisation and transformation of its network is essential if it is to thrive. When planning any changes, the company will always give due consideration to how best it can continue to ensure it delivers a high quality of service to its customers.

The internal consultation process that Royal Mail follows to consider proposals has been agreed with its trade unions (both the CWU and CMA/Unite). Royal Mail is implementing its restructuring in line with the framework set out in that agreement, consulting fully with its employees and the unions and working together to develop the best solution for the company's future. Royal Mail is not obliged to consult publicly on its proposals; however, it aims to keep all interested stakeholders informed, engaged and updated when it develops its plans.

The Government understand that Royal Mail wrote to Guisborough Town Council in August to set out the background to the proposals and also attended a public meeting on 29 October on the issue.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 November 2011

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Aerials

Mr Binley: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, whether the Church Commissioners have received representations on the initiative by Premier Christian Radio to purchase gas beacons to place on church towers. [78394]

Tony Baldry: While the Church Commissioners are aware of the initiative sponsored by Premier Christian Radio, the matter was not the subject of formal consultation.

The Church Commissioners have a number of serious reservations about the proposal to invite churches to place gas powered beacons on church towers to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. These relate to the potential hazards to personal health, to private property and to the fabric of church buildings of mounting gas cylinders on church roofs, which are often difficult to access by individuals and emergency services, and are structurally unsuited for the purpose.

The Church Commissioners are keen to encourage the Church of England's 16,000 churches to mark the Diamond Jubilee in suitable and appropriate ways. In the case of lit beacons, we would urge churches to ensure that they are placed at a sufficient distance from the church building to minimise the potential for injury and damage to the structure.

Metal Theft

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what recent representations he has received on trends in metal theft from churches; and if he will make a statement. [81627]

Tony Baldry: The theft of metal from churches continues to be a serious problem. Despite some recent successful prosecutions in Lincolnshire, the Church still finds about 10 of its churches a day suffering from theft. Insurance payouts for theft of metal from places of worship have increased by 70% and are expected to reach £5.5 million by the end of the year. According to ACPO the full cost to the domestic economy of metal theft, across all sectors, is reaching upwards of £770 million.

The Church welcomes English Heritage's assistance in updating their advice on the repair and replacement of roofs, which now allows for the replacement of stolen roofing material with different less valuable alternatives. St John the Baptist church in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire is the first grade 1 listed church in the country to be granted a faculty to replace its stolen roof with a fibreglass alternative after the church was targeted seven times in six months despite having installed anti theft measures.

The Church remains convinced that making cash transactions illegal is the single move that will have the greatest impact on reducing this crime and are pleased to see this proposal gaining wider acceptance. The Church of England continues to have conversations with the Home Office, the CPS and others.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Mr Binley: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what plans the Church Commissioners have to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [78395]

Tony Baldry: The main national focus of the Church of England's celebrations will be a service on 5 June at St Paul's Cathedral. Churches across the country are also being encouraged to initiate and participate in a variety of national and local events, including concerts, exhibitions, the ringing of church bells and the Big Jubilee Lunch on 3 June, for which the Bishop of London is writing a special Grace for the Queen.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Backbench Debates

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Leader of the House what consideration he gave to allocating 16, 17 and 18 November 2011 to backbench business; and if he will make a statement. [80690]

Sir George Young: None. Under the House's Standing Orders, the House will continue not to sit on Fridays other than those on which private Members' Bills have precedence, unless the House otherwise orders. On the days in question right hon. and hon. Members continued to carry out important constituency and parliamentary work.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in the Government Equalities Office have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77409]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Equalities and Human Rights Commission: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the monthly cost is inclusive of VAT of each non-permanent member of staff of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC); and if she will estimate the cost to the EHRC including *(a)* salary, *(b)* national insurance and *(c)* pension contributions of replacing each non-permanent member of staff. [62203]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

A table showing the monthly cost, inclusive of VAT and agency fees, of all interim workers in post at 1 November 2011 is as follows.

Also shown is the estimated monthly cost, were these posts to be filled by permanent staff. This includes salary, national insurance and pension contributions.

The Commission also employs a further 24 temporary staff through fixed term contracts, loan or secondment. Monthly costs are not provided as they are all employed within the existing pay ranges at the appropriate grade.

The Government continue to impress upon the Commission the need for it to reduce its dependence on expensive interim staff.

£

Position	*Monthly charge inc. VAT for interim*[1]	*Salary plus pension plus NI for permanent employee*[2]
Group Director, Intelligence and Engagement	21,465.90	13,810.00
Finance Director	21,850.20	11,526.00
Disability and Good Relations Director	12,846.60	11,526.00
Project Manager—Executive Resourcing[3]	8,222.00	3,390.00
Senior HR Change Manager[4]	14,103.60	5,650.00
Project Manager, Finance Operations	16,799.40	7,062.50
Head of the Codes and Guidance Project Team	20,313.00	7,062.50
Head of Employee Relations	16,415.10	7,062.50
Project Manager, Finance	15,152.40	7,062.50
Head of Workforce Reform and Operations	15,783.75	7,062.50
Project Manager, Strategic Communications	16,250.40	7,062.50
Programme and Project Manager	16,470.00	4,935.84
Employee Relations Manager	10,650.60	4,935.84
Interim Head of Internal Equalities Scheme	11,419.20	4,935.84
Senior Business Partner	12,627.00	4,935.84
Senior Employment Lawyer	9,667.23	4,935.84
Programme Manager—Regulatory Reform	9,706.32	4,935.84
Head of Procurement	11,363.86	4,935.84
Resourcing Manager	6,425.72	3,673.74
Procurement Officer	7,828.30	2,878.45
Support Worker[5]	2,014.17	1,585.00
Support Worker	3,606.49	1,585.00
Support Worker	2,583.59	1,585.00
Support Worker	1,840.25	1,585.00
Support Worker	1,607.91	1,585.00
Support Worker	1,642.83	1,585.00

[1] Payments to interim workers vary from month, depending on the number of days worked. The monthly figures for interim workers have been calculated for a typical month, based on 220 working days in a year divided by 12 months (unless specified otherwise, see footnotes 3 and 4).
[2] The figures shown for the permanent employees excludes all costs associated with recruiting to these posts.
[3] Incumbent contracted for 10 days per month; cost pro-rated accordingly.
[4] Incumbent works an average of four days per week; cost pro-rated accordingly.
[5] A significant proportion of the costs for the support workers is met by schemes such as Access To Work.

Remploy: Pensions

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether a meeting of the Remploy pension trustees and their advisers took place on 4 November 2011. [80420]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Remploy pension scheme trustees are independent, and the Department for Work and Pensions is therefore not informed when the trustees meet their advisers.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the potential cost of winding up the Remploy pension scheme; and whether this includes the commitment of £100 million to eliminate the existing deficit. [80421]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions and the Remploy Pension Scheme trustees have not discussed any proposal involving the winding up of the Remploy pension scheme. The Department for Work and Pensions, Remploy and the Remploy Trustees agreed a deficit recovery plan in June 2011 to eliminate the deficit identified in March 2010.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of her Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78649]

Damian Green: Information on meetings attended with external interest groups is collated by the Cabinet Office and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

Information on meetings attended by officials is not held centrally.

Animal Experiments

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many animals were used in procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales in 2010; [81512]

(2) how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out in Wales in 2010; [81513]

(3) how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* New World primates and *(p)* Old World primates were used in procedures conducted in Wales and regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2010; [81514]

(4) how many places in Wales had a designation of a *(a)* supplying establishment, *(b)* breeding establishment and *(c)* scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 on 31 December 2010; [81515]

(5) what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 conducted in Wales in 2010 were performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* national health service hospitals, *(d)* Government Departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations; [81516]

(6) what proportion of the procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Wales in 2010 were conducted without anaesthesia; [81518]

(7) how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Wales in 2010; [81519]

(8) what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 conducted in Wales in 2010 were carried out for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation. [81520]

Lynne Featherstone: While figures for Great Britain are published annually, the latest being on 13 July 2011, it would take significant work to run the systems specifically to obtain data for Wales and then to check that none of the data were disclosive or breached any confidentiality guarantees given to respondents. For this reason, I will write to you separately when we have had sufficient time to compile and check the information you requested. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Copies of the latest annual publication are available via the Library of the House and from the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/science/research-testing-animals/

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in force in Wales on 31 December 2010 were in the *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity banding. [81517]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Wales, 57% of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were in the mild severity banding, 43% in moderate. There were none in substantial or unclassified.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales were recorded in 2010; and how many such infringements resulted in a prosecution. [81521]

Lynne Featherstone: There was one recorded infringement of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at a designated establishment in Wales during 2010. It did not result in a prosecution.

Animal Welfare

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what priority the National Crime Agency plans to assign to tackling wildlife crime. [81674]

James Brokenshire: I refer my hon. Fiend to the answer given on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 776W.

Asylum

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases concern asylum seekers resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who are not *(a)* awaiting prosecution, *(b)* awaiting removal and *(c)* subject to ongoing litigation. [81457]

Damian Green: A total of 40 people are resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who do not meet the criteria under *(a)*, *(b)* or *(c)* above. These data are sourced from a local management team and should be treated as provisional.

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been deported under the fast-track process in each of the last 12 months; how many appeals made by such people were upheld following removal in each of the last 12 months; how many failed asylum seekers deported under the fast-track process *(a)* were removed with (i) 72 hours, (ii) 48 hours and (iii) 24 hours notice in each of the last 12 months and *(b)* were children in each of the last two years. [80335]

Damian Green: The number of failed asylum seekers that have been removed in the last 12 months is shown in the following table:

	Total
2010	
November	148
December	101
2011	
January	154
February	130
March	148
April	83
May	145
June	128
July	156
August	114
September	133
October	153
Grand total	1,593

Note:
All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

No statutory appeals were upheld following removal in the last 12 months.

No asylum seekers removed under the fast track process were removed with less than 72 hours of initial notice in the last 12 months.

No children were removed under the fast track process in the last two years.

Baton Rounds: Death

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured by the use of baton rounds since 1981. [80971]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold this data. Data on number of people killed as a result of the use of police baton rounds since 2004 are held by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). This shows that no individuals have been killed as a result of the police use of baton rounds since 2004. The IPCC does not hold data prior to this period and does not hold comprehensive data about injuries.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in her Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80053]

Damian Green: Information on meetings attended by Ministers or specials advisers with external interest groups are published by the Cabinet Office and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

Information on meetings attended by officials with the Bell Pottinger Group or its subsidiaries is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Bottles: Public Houses

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will conduct a comparative assessment of the sale of *(a)* glass and *(b)* plastic bottles in pubs and nightclubs. [80106]

James Brokenshire: There are no current plans to undertake a comparative assessment of the sale of glass and plastic bottles in pubs and nightclubs.

Civil Disorder: Greater London

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the monetary value is of payments made for damage to buildings and contents in the London Borough of Southwark under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 since August 2011; [79950]

(2) how many claims for financial compensation for damage to buildings and contents in the London Borough of Southwark have been made under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 in 2011 to date. [79951]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold the detail on the number or value of claims made specifically by individual boroughs of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Community Safety Partnerships: Wales

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding commitments her Department has made to Community Safety Partnerships in Wales in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [80700]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The following table shows funding allocated to community safety partnerships in Wales in 2011-12. Indicative allocations for community safety funding in 2012-13 have been published (as per table). Final decisions about (i) the levels of funding in 2012-13 and (ii) the recipients of funding in 2012-13 are still to be agreed. From 2013-14, community safety funding will go directly to police and crime commissioners.

Wales community safety funding

	2011-12	2012-13[1] (indicative)
Blaenau Gwent	88,880	44,965
Bridgend	110,929	56,119
Caerphilly	141,887	71,781
Cardiff	294,493	148,985
Carmarthenshire	96,432	48,785
Ceredigion	57,088	28,881
Conwy	83,791	42,390
Denbighshire	84,712	42,856
Flintshire	98,281	49,720
Gwynedd	79,728	40,335
Isle of Anglesey	60,520	30,617
Merthyr Tydfil	81,375	41,168
Monmouthshire	77,943	39,431
Neath Port Talbot	118,009	59,701
Newport	138,493	70,064
Pembrokeshire	72,089	36,470
Powys	74,927	37,906
Rhondda Cynon Taff	162,776	82,349
Swansea	238,101	120,456
Torfaen	86,837	43,931
Vale of Glamorgan	111,614	56,466
Wrexham	109,419	55,355
Total	2,468,324	1,248,731

[1] Funding levels and recipients are being finalised.

Community Safety Teams

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community safety teams have *(a)* closed down or *(b)* reduced in size in each local authority area in England and Wales since May 2010. [77209]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The size or indeed existence of community safety teams is a matter for each local authority to determine.

Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press Inquiry

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any additional resources or staff will be made available to the police for the purposes of supporting engagement with the Leveson inquiry whilst maintaining existing services. [78830]

Nick Herbert: The Government have no plans to provide any additional resources.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what applications for judicial review have been made against her Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by her Department for each such application; in each failed application whether she applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether her Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80703]

Damian Green: Because of the complexity and sensitivity of the issues with which the Home Office deals, its decisions are frequently subject to challenge by judicial review and this has been so for many years.

The total number of judicial review cases opened by the Department (including the UK Border Agency and the Identity and Passport Service) in the last Parliament was 27,622.

Since May 2010, 12,431 judicial review cases have been opened. A judicial review case is opened by the Treasury Solicitor's Department on the date the file was registered on its database by the relevant litigation team. Because of the large numbers of such judicial reviews in the years in question, it is not possible to provide the details of what each judicial review application was about without incurring disproportionate cost.

Information about the outcome of such cases for the years in question, the costs applied for against each applicant and whether these were awarded and paid, is not held centrally. The total number of judicial reviews pending against the Home Office as of 11 November 2011 was 8,918.

The total legal costs (meaning Treasury Solicitor fees, counsel fees and charges) incurred by the Department on judicial review cases opened during the last Parliament is £78,569,601.43. The total legal costs incurred by the Department for judicial review cases opened since May 2010 is £17,886,294.67.

The costs associated with each of these cases may continue to change until the case has been closed. These legal costs are not available on a case-by-case basis.

As regards cases where the Department paid for and/or offered to pay the legal costs of a judicial review applicant, records for the amounts paid by the Department in such cases (so-called 'adverse costs') exist only for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2011 and such costs totalled £7,033,973. This figure includes cases where the Department agreed to pay the costs of the applicant as well cases where it was ordered to do so (there being no separate breakdown available of the figures relating to each type of case).

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessors spent on *(a)* permanent and *(b)* casual staff in each of the last five years. [80542]

Damian Green: The costs of *(a)* permanent and *(b)* other staff are set out in the following table:

£ million

	Wages and salaries[1]	Social security	Pension (other)	Early retirement	Recoveries[2]	Total
2010-11						
(a) Permanent staff	722.2	50	118.3	34.6	-0.7	924.4
(b) Other staff	14.7	0	0	0	0	14.7

£ million

	Wages and salaries[1]	Social security	Pension (other)	Early retirement	Recoveries[2]	Total
Total	736.9	50	118.3	34.6	-0.7	939.1
2009-10						
(a) Permanent staff	727	49.1	118	0	-0.9	893.2
(b) Other staff	24.7	0	0	0	0	24.7
Total	751.7	49.1	118	0	-0.9	917.7
2008-09[3]						
(a) Permanent staff	714.4	46.8	128.8	0	0	889.1
(b) Other staff	18.9	0	0	0	0	18.9
Total	733.3	46.8	128.8	0	0	908
2007-08						
(a) Permanent staff	470.6	34.6	82.8	0	-0.7	587.3
(b) Other staff	23.6	0	0	0	0	23.6
Total	494.2	34.6	82.8	0	-0.7	610.9
2006-07						
(a) Permanent staff	428.6	32.2	76.5	0	0	537.3
(b) Other staff	27.7	0	0	0	0	27.7
Total	456.3	32.2	76.5	0	0	565

[1] Includes bonuses.
[2] Recovery of costs of outward secondments.
[3] Accounts for 2008-09 were restated in 2009-10 to account for inward machinery of government transfer of functions from HM Revenue and Customs and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Accordingly, the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are for the predecessor Border and Immigration Agency before these functions were taken on.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78128]

Damian Green: The Home Office, including its agencies, entered the public sector pay freeze from 2010.

In accordance with Cabinet Office guidance on the pay freeze, in 2010-11 and 2011-12 the Home Office (including UK Border Agency), Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau paid a consolidated increase of at least £250 to all staff earning £21,000 or less per annum.

Also in accordance with the pay freeze guidance, the Home Office (including UK Border Agency) and the Criminal Records Bureau have also honoured a contractual commitment to pay progression.

The following table sets out pay award payments for 2010-11 and 2011-12, where available.

Other than as a result of promotion, no other pay rises have been awarded.

Senior civil servants did not receive an increase in base pay in 2010 or 2011.

	Number of staff who received a pay increase	Average increase (£)
2010-11		
Home Office/ UKBA	22,198	567.00
IPS	2,837	161.00
CRB	733	589.00
2011-12		
Home Office/ UKBA	[1]—	[1]—
IPS	2,007	135.00
CRB	[1]—	[1]—

[1] 2011 pay award not yet paid.

UK Border Agency: Redundancy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each grade and role have been made redundant and on what terms by the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [80567]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has not made any staff compulsorily redundant in the last five years.

The number of staff who took voluntary exits over the same period is as follows:

	Number
2006-07	[1]—
2007-08	[2]62
2008-09	[2]80
2009-10	[3]112
2010-11	[3]1,186

[1] Data not available.
[2] Data from manual HR records.
[3] Data from UK Border Agency Annual Reports 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which private security firms her Department has approved to carry out enforcement of deportation orders; which have been contracted to perform such duties; and what the financial value of each such contract will be in each of the next five years; [80337]

(2) what the cost to her Department and its agencies was of employing private security firms to enforce deportation orders in each of the last five years. [80339]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency contract for detention and escorting services (other than removal centres) is with Reliance Secure Task Management Services and includes transportation of immigration detainees within the UK (including to ports for removal), the provision of holding facilities at ports of entry and reporting centres, residential short-term holding facilities at Larne (Northern Ireland) and Manchester, and overseas escorting on both scheduled and chartered flights.

The services were provided by G4S Care and Justice Services prior to May 2011.

Reliance may use, and G4S may have used, sub-contractors. The UK Border Agency also used alternative suppliers prior to May 2011 to manage peaks in demand for its services, which have over the last few years included Serco, GEO Group, and Molynes.

Owing to the commercial nature of the contracts, releasing the element relating to just overseas escorting could prejudice the commercial interests of both the UK Border Agency and it suppliers. However, the total value of the contract with G4S and use of alternative suppliers for all detention and escorting services for the past five financial years were:

	Total value of contract (£)
2006-07	35,492,843
2007-08	36,947,442
2008-09	42,330,850
2009-10	45,712,305
2010-11	51,683,916

Our contract with Reliance is demand driven and we are unable to say with any accuracy what we will pay over the coming five years. However, details of all our expenditure with Reliance is published on a monthly basis and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/transparency/transparency-spend/

Domestic Violence: Drugs

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her assessment is of the links between drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence; and if she will make a statement. [81312]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Intimate partner violence is frequently committed by perpetrators who have been drinking or who have alcohol problems. Victims are less likely to have been drinking, though may have alcohol problems in some cases as a result of victimisation.

According to the British Crime Survey (2008-09):

around one in four (27%) victims of partner abuse in the past year reported that the offender was under the influence of drink at the time of the (most recent) incident; and

around one in 10 (11%) victims reported that they were under the influence of drink at the time of the incident.

Smaller numbers of perpetrators were under the influence of drugs at the time of the most recent incident. The British Crime Survey (2008-09) says:

around one in 10 (10%) victims of partner abuse in the past year reported that the offender was under the influence of drugs at the time of the most recent incident; and

one in 50 (2%) victims reported that they were under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident compared.

This analysis does not prove a causal link between drugs and alcohol as there may be other lifestyle factors related to both drug use and victimisation which could explain the increased risk.

Drinking Banning Orders

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drinking banning orders were breached in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 to date. [81087]

James Brokenshire: Figures for drink banning orders (DBOs) issued in 2009, 2010 and 2011 are in the following table:

	DBO on application	*DBO as part of a conditional discharge*	*DBO on conviction*	*Total*
2009	0	—	—	0
2010	35	0	0	35
2011	8	7	313	328

Source:
HM Courts Service (unpublished figures).

Figures for the numbers of breaches are not held centrally and for the Courts Service to collate this data manually at this stage would incur disproportionate costs.

Note:

DBOs have been available as civil orders nationally since 31 August 2009. In April 2010, 25 Local Justice Areas were required to consider making a DBO to offenders on conviction. This provision was rolled out to a further 25 Local Justice Areas in July 2010. The Government are currently considering further roll-out.

Drugs: Arrests

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for crimes connected with *(a)* cocaine and *(b)* heroin use in each constituency in each year since 2005. [81310]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Data held centrally on the number of persons arrested in England and Wales cannot separately identify all crimes connected with drugs use.

Arrest data for 'drug offences' are collected at police force level only and cannot be broken down by constituency. These data are published annually in chapter 1 of the

Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Police Powers and Procedures, copies of which are available from the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/

Drugs may also have been a factor in arrests for other recorded offences but it is not possible to separately identify these.

Drugs: Crime

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had any recent discussions with the UK Drug Policy Commission on the concerns they have raised about drug policing capacity. [81355]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not discussed with the UK Drug Policy Commission their concerns about drug policing capacity.

As Minister of State for Crime Prevention and Anti Social Behaviour Reduction, my noble Friend Lord Henley met representatives from UK Drug Policy Commission on 8 November 2011. During this meeting the UK Drug Policy Commission presented the findings of their latest research projects, including their recent report "Getting Serious about Stigma: The Problem with Stigmatising Drug Users" and research project "Drug Enforcement in an Age of Austerity".

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to provide to Operation Tarian in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [81399]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office part funds a network of Regional Intelligence Units (RIU), and wholly funds a network of Regional Asset Recovery Teams (RART). For 2011-12, £514,000 has been made available to the Wales RIU and £1,044,846 to the RART—both of which form a part of the Tarian collaboration. A similar amount will be made available in 2012-13. Funding decisions for 2013-14 are still to betaken.

Local operational leaders have discretion, within the bounds of their grant agreement, to use some of the RIU funding to support operational activity such as that conducted by Tarian.

Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spousal visa applications have been rejected on the basis of failure to meet English language requirements since 1 July 2011. [81144]

Damian Green: 468 spousal visa applications have been refused on the basis of failure to meet the English language requirement since 1 July 2011.

The data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Gang Injunctions

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many injunctions to restrict the movement of persons accused of gang membership have been issued in *(a)* England and *(b)* London since their inception. [78738]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not collect data on a mandatory basis on the use of gang injunctions by local authorities and the police and so we cannot give a definite number. We know of seven gang injunctions in London, two in Bristol and one in Manchester.

Gang Injunctions: Greater London

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which London boroughs gang injunctions have been issued. [79146]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Home Office does not collect data on a mandatory basis on the use of gang injunctions by local authorities and the police and so we cannot give a definite number. We know of seven gang injunctions in London, including in the boroughs of Southwark, Enfield and Hackney.

Go Safe Partnership

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to provide to the Go Safe partnership scheme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [81401]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

Since the end of the National Safety Camera programme in March 2007 this has been a matter for local authorities and devolved Administrations.

Harassment

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people reported alleged offences under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each of the last five years. [81397]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office classification of 'Harassment' includes offences recorded under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. However, such offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification.

In 2008-09 there were 48,363 offences of harassment recorded by the police in England and Wales. There were 52,962 offences recorded in 2009-10 and 51,200 in 2010-11.

Prior to 2008-09, Protection from Harassment Act offences were included with offences recorded under the Public Order Act 1986 and cannot be separately identified.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who were victims of stalking in each of the last five years. [81398]

Lynne Featherstone: Estimates of the number of males and females who were victims of stalking in each of the last five years are provided in the following table. These are based on a self completion module in the British Crime Survey which asks adults aged 16 to 59 questions on their experience of stalking.

Estimated numbers of victims of stalking in the last year by gender among adults aged 16 to 59, 2006-07 to 2010-11— England and Wales, BCS

Number (thousand)

	Male		*Female*	
	Estimate	*Range*[1]	*Estimate*	*Range*[1]
2006-07	674	603 to 745	951	874 to 1,029
2007-08[2]	—	—	—	—
2008-09	434	378 to 489	667	604 to 730
2009-10	463	400 to 526	702	632 to 772
2010-11	513	420 to 606	669	573 to 765

[1] The BCS is a sample survey which means that its estimates ere subject to a margin of error. It is possible to calculate a confidence interval around the estimate showing the likely range for the true population value. This has been calculated at the 95% level; meaning that there is a 19 in 20 chance that the true estimate lies within the given range.

[2] The 2007-08 BCS did not include questions on stalking.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about harassment under the terms of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were not recorded as crimes in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [81685]

Lynne Featherstone: The National Crime Recording Standard and Home Office Counting Rules for police recorded crime require police forces to record reports from victims about harassment, as set out in the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, as notifiable crimes. There were 52,962 incidents of harassment recorded in 2009-10 and 51,200 in 2010-11 by police forces in England and Wales.

Identity Cards

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure that licensed premises accept identification cards containing the PASS hologram as proof of age; and if she will make a statement. [80972]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) is an initiative of businesses involved in the sale of age-restricted products. The Home Office supports this initiative and encourages licensed premises to accept identity cards bearing the PASS hologram. Acceptance of cards with the PASS hologram will be encouraged in Home Office False ID Guidance to be republished early in the new year. However, the types of identification accepted by a shop, pub or club properly remains a decision for the management of those premises.

Immigration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration cases are in the controlled archive. [81287]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* As reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 12 September 2011 there are 98,000 cases in the controlled archive.

Interpol: Political Impartiality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the adequacy of the mechanisms in place for ensuring political neutrality from all member states in line with Article 3 of Interpol's Constitution for the issuing of *(a)* Interpol Red Notices and *(b)* Interpol Diffusions; and if she will make a statement. [81186]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not discussed this matter with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Ensuring Interpol adheres to its constitutional rules on neutrality is primarily the responsibility of Interpol's General Secretariat. The secretariat checks Red Notices for compliance, including with the neutrality rules, prior to publication. Interpol Diffusions are not currently checked by the secretariat but there are plans to introduce this in the future.

Individual cases can be reviewed by the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files, which is an independent monitoring body which operates within Interpol's basic rules.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 26 September 2011 with regard to Nadia Stern. [79374]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* A reply to the right hon. Member's letter was sent on 9 November 2011.

Metal Theft

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that policy regarding metal theft is the responsibility of one Minister. [80258]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has the policy responsibility for metal theft, in close collaboration with her ministerial colleagues across Government.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to tackle metal theft from public buildings and memorials. [80952]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office supports the wide-ranging plan being delivered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Metal Theft working group to tackle metal theft, including the theft from

public buildings and memorials. In addition, discussions are under way across Government on whether legislative changes are needed to tackle metal theft.

Metropolitan Police Professional Standards Division: Complaints

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints from members of the public the Metropolitan Police Professional Standards Division has received in each year since its inception. [81688]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the collation and publication of annual complaint statistics for the police service in England and Wales. These statistics provide a breakdown of complaint cases by police force and can be found on the IPCC website at:

www.ipcc.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers employed by the Metropolitan Police Service have been *(a)* suspended, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed following allegations of (i) corruption and (ii) misconduct in each of the last five years. [81667]

Nick Herbert: Information collected by the Home Office shows the number of police officers employed by the Metropolitan Police Service that have been suspended and dismissed from 2006-07 to 2010-11 (full-time equivalent). Reasons behind these suspensions and dismissals are a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. Information on the number of police officers disciplined is not collected centrally.

Number of police officers employed by Metropolitan Police Service that have been suspended and dismissed, 2006-07 to 2010-11[1]

Financial year	Suspended	Dismissed
2006-07	20	31
2007-08	21	23
2008-09	21	19
2009-10	28	24
2010-11	23	39

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Phone Hacking

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has allocated additional resources to the Metropolitan police as a result of the workload arising from the investigation into phone hacking. [80156]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Government have not allocated any additional resources.

Monarchy: Marriage

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1221-2W, on the Monarchy: marriage, how much the Metropolitan Police Service spent from each of its budgets on the Royal Wedding to May 2011. [81539]

Nick Herbert: The costs of policing the Royal Wedding in April 2011 were met from the Metropolitan Police Authority budget. Information on such police expenditure is not collected centrally. There is no statutory requirement for the Metropolitan Police Authority to provide such information to the Home Department.

Neighbourhood Policing Fund

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department will provide to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [81403]

Nick Herbert: The Neighbourhood Policing Fund will continue as a ring-fenced grant until 2013-14 when it will be consolidated into Home Office Police Main Grant. From 2013-14 it will be for the democratically elected police and crime commissioner, in consultation with the chief constable, to take decisions on the funding and resourcing of neighbourhood policing. (The ring fence does not apply to the Metropolitan Police Authority which has had full discretion on the spending of this funding since 2011-12.)

The following funding has been allocated to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund:

(a) £340,000,000 in 2011-12

(b) £338,000,000 in 2012-13.

Passports: Fraud

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 421W, on passports: fraud, how many of the passport frauds detected were categorised as *(a)* confirmed, *(b)* probable and *(c)* possible in each of the last five years. [81404]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) figures for passport frauds detected in the last five years broken down by confirmed, probable and possible frauds are shown in the following table:

	Confirmed fraud	Probable fraud	Possible fraud—identified during examination process	Possible fraud—identified during interview process[1]	Total
2006-07[1]	—	—	—	—	6,108
2007-08	199	1,642	7,541	—	9,382
2008-09	274	1,727	7,253	—	9,254
2009-10	168	1,138	6,038	—	7,344
2010-11	273	599	5,397	1,601	7,870

[1] Prior to 2007-08 IPS did not distinguish between possible, probable and confirmed fraud. Prior to 2010-11 IPS did not formally count possible frauds identified during the interview process. In all of these cases no passport is issued and the documents and fee are retained.

Police

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what community safety funds her Department provides to police authorities in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [80699]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* No community safety funding is provided to police authorities in England and Wales.

Police: Crime

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how she proposes that police crime commissioners will interact with Community Safety Partnerships in Wales. [80695]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Strong partnership working between the police and crime commissioners (PCCs) and other local leaders will be critical to ensuring safer communities in Wales.

Commissioners will have a democratic mandate to respond to the crime and community safety priorities of the public within their force area. They will introduce a new dynamic to local partnership working and it will be in the interests of all local leaders in Wales to maximise collective leadership. This includes the PCC working with the responsible authorities that make up community safety partnerships.

Under the legislation, the PCC and their community safety partners have a duty to co-operate and to have regard to each other's priorities except to matters in respect of which Welsh Ministers have functions.

Police: Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been injured by dangerous dogs since June 2010. [80990]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department contributed to sexual assault referral centre funding in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; [81249]

(2) what funding her Department made available for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; [81250]

(3) what resources her Department made available for the funding of the *(a)* Rape Crisis and *(b)* Survivors Trust national head office in financial year (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [81251]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to tackling sexual violence and all forms of violence against women and girls, and the Home Office has allocated £28 million of funding until 2015 for related specialist services.

This includes £1.74 million to part-fund 87 independent sexual violence adviser (ISVA) posts on a stable basis from 2011-12 to 2014-15. This is an increase from £860,000 (44 posts) in 2010-11.

It also includes £75,000 for each Rape Crisis and Survivors Trust, the same amount was allocated to them in 2010-11.

The Home Office provided £1.35 million for sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) in 2010-11. This has not been continued in 2011-12 as SARCs are local partnerships and local areas are best placed to decide what level of service they require and what model is best to deliver that.

Smuggling: Fuels

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences relating to fuel laundering were recorded in each region in each of the last three years; [80385]

(2) what discussions she has had with representatives of the devolved Administrations to co-ordinate steps to tackle fuel laundering and smuggling in the UK. [80386]

Miss Chloe Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The numbers of laundering plants detected by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are in the following table:

	Laundering plants
2008-09	
NI	5
England	1
Total	6
2009-10	
NI	16
Total	16
2010-11	
NI	20
Scotland	1
England	2
Total	23

HMRC does not record centrally the number of vehicles detected running on laundered fuel. However, the numbers of vehicles containing illicit fuels that were detected in the last three years are shown in the following table:

	Illicit fuel detections
2008-09	3,934
2009-10	3,762
2010-11	3,083

HMRC is a member of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) in Northern Ireland. The OCTF is chaired by the Minister of Justice and brings Government, law enforcement and a range of both UK and Northern Ireland agencies together to set priorities for tackling organised crime in Northern Ireland.

Stalking

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance her Department issues to police forces in England and Wales on investigating allegations of stalking; [78934]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on *(a)* the creation of a separate offence of stalking, *(b)* implementation of operating procedures and policy on stalking and *(c)* training of police officers on prevention of stalking. [78935]

Nick Herbert: Association of Chief of Police Officers (ACPO) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) guidance can be found at:

www.cps.gov.uk

and

www.acpo.police.uk

The National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) provides support to the Police Service with regard to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 by including relevant training within the Initial Police Learning and Development programme, ensuring that all new officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding.

Stalking: Scotland

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an assessment has been made by her Department of the effects on stalking in Scotland of the coming into force of the Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010. [78931]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have not undertaken an assessment of the effects of stalking in Scotland since the Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010 came into force on 6 August 2010. However, as part of the consultation on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively (launched on 14 November 2011) we look at how stalking is tackled in other jurisdictions and, in particular, Scotland.

Steria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department holds with Steria; and what the purpose is of each such contract. [80769]

Damian Green: The Home Department holds one contract with Steria. The Identity and Passport Service, an executive agency of the Home Department, holds this contract which supports delivery aspects of the passport application process.

Terrorism

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had with Muslim leaders in the UK on anti-terrorism legislation. [80962]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Government regularly engage with community groups—including Muslim organisations—to discuss the Government's counter-terrorism strategy and the important contribution they can make to it.

In respect of discussions about counter-terrorism legislation, the Home Office and some Muslim groups are represented on the police's National Accountability Board which monitors the use of ports stops under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. The Board has met twice this year, on 3 May and 20 September.

More generally in respect of counter-terrorism legislation, the Government held wide-ranging consultation, including with Muslim organisations, on the review of counter-terrorism and security powers that took place last year. The summary of responses to the consultation (ISBN 978-0-10-180052-5) were published in January 2011 and can be found on the Home Office website.

Terrorism: Wales

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to provide to the Wales Extremist and Counter Terrorism Unit in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [81400]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department does not break down the counter-terrorism budget beyond what is already published for reasons of national security.

It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal these details.

UK Border Agency

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff she expects to be stationed in Hull in each year between 2012 and 2015. [81093]

Damian Green: Future detailed staffing plans for Hull on a year by year basis are not yet available.

PRIME MINISTER

Immunity Certificates

John Hemming: To ask the Prime Minister how many applications for public interest immunity certificates have been made by each Government Minister in each year since 2000; and how many such applications were granted. [80691]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

No central record of public interest immunity certificates has been maintained for some years and could now be collated only at disproportionate cost. The Attorney-General, in consultation with the Treasury Solicitor's Department, is considering the most effective way in which a comprehensive central record can be re-established.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what

legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80717]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since May 2010, four applications for judicial review have been made against my Department, one was refused, one was withdrawn and two are pending.

In relation to the refused application, the applicant was legally aided and costs were not recoverable.

In relation to the withdrawn application, the applicant was not legally aided. Costs were sought. However, the judge exercised his discretion and made no Order for Costs. Counsel costs amounted to £1,183.

DEFENCE

Ministerial Meetings

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Tony Buckingham has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged; [78663]

(2) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Stephen Crouch has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged; [78664]

(3) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Michael Lewis has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged; [78665]

(4) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Poju Zabludowicz has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged; [78666]

(5) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Michael Hintze has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged; [78667]

(6) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Michael Davis has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged; [78668]

(7) whether *(a)* civil servants of his Department, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* members of the armed forces have had meetings with any members of companies or organisations in which Jon Moulton has an interest since May 2010; and if so, by whom such meetings were arranged. [78669]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 229W. These were the only meetings identified between Ministers and the individuals named.

The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on companies or organisations of which these individuals may have an interest.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Michael Lewis is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010; [79242]

(2) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Michael Hintze is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010; [79264]

(3) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Jon Moulton is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010; [79265]

(4) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Poju Zabludowicz is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010; [79266]

(5) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Tony Buckingham is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010; [79268]

(6) whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Michael Davis is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010. [79269]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on companies or organisations of which the individuals named are directors or in which they are significant shareholders.

Afghanistan

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on Afghanistan, on how many occasions *(a)* the hon. Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), *(b)* (i) officials and (ii) special advisers of his Department and *(c)* James Murdoch have visited Afghanistan since May 2010; what the cost to the public purse was of each visit; what the purpose was of each visit; and if he will make a statement. [74969]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 17 October 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has organised and funded one visit to Afghanistan for the hon. Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) since May 2010. My hon. Friend, in his then capacity as Parliamentary Private Secretary, accompanied my predecessor (the

right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox)) on an official visit in August 2010. My hon. Friend travelled by military aircraft and was hosted, with the rest of the party, in military accommodation while in Afghanistan. We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs of the flights and accommodation for my hon. Friend from our overall ongoing operational costs.

The MOD has not organised any visit to Afghanistan for James Murdoch.

Since May 2010, 477 UK MOD civilians have visited Afghanistan, which is the MOD's main effort and, as such, officials from the Department are routinely required to travel there. However, travel is only undertaken if there is a clear departmental requirement and it is done in the way that is most economical both in terms of cost and official time.

Since May 2010, special advisers at the MOD have made a total of nine return trips to Afghanistan. On all but one occasion, special advisers travelled to Afghanistan as part of their duties in support of ministerial visits. On the other occasion, a MOD special adviser visited Afghanistan as part of a cross-Whitehall communications visit. The overall travel costs by commercial aircraft associated with the nine visits were £17,762.53; as above, we are unable to disaggregate the specific costs of the in-theatre flights and accommodation for these officials from our overall ongoing operational costs.

Afghanistan: Ethnic Groups

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the ethnic composition of the *(a)* Afghan National Army and *(b)* Afghan National Police Force; and how representative each is of the ethnic composition of Afghanistan as a whole. [79204]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* We recognise that building an ethnically balanced Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) will be a key factor in ensuring the cohesion of the future force. The UK does not make its own assessments of the ethnic composition of the ANSF. The following tables have been provided by the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) and the UK has had no input to their production. These figures from 29 June 2011, rounded to the nearest whole number, show the NTM-A's assessment of the ethnic breakdown of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA).

ANP

	Pashtun	*Tajik*	*Hazara*	*Uzbek*	*Percentage Others*
Officer	41	47	4	3	5
Non-commissioned officer	31	56	5	4	4
Patrolmen	47	35	4	7	7
Total force	43	42	4	6	5
National population average	44	25	10	8	13

ANA

	Pashtun	*Tajik*	*Hazara*	*Uzbek*	*Percentage Others*
Officer	40	38	7	4	5
NCO	50	40	7	2	1
Soldier	43	30	12	8	7
Total force	45	33	10	6	5
National population average	44	25	10	8	13

However, the tables suggest that the percentage of Pashtuns is broadly proportionate to their relative representation as part of the population, although recruitment is ongoing to ensure a better representation of southern Pashtuns. Tajiks continue to be over-represented across the force as a whole in both the ANA and ANP while other groups (Hazaras, Uzbeks, etc.) are under-represented, which NTM-A is seeking to address. It should be noted, however, that the ANA and ANP have different approaches to maintaining ethnic balance. The ANA attempts to balance ethnicity in line with the national population, whereas the ANP seeks to maintain a balance that is representative of the local population where each ANP unit operates.

Aircraft Carriers

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has spent on the carrier variant conversion investigation since the announcement of the strategic defence and security review; and how much it has budgeted to spend up to 31 December 2012; [80366]

(2) which of the planned Queen Elizabeth class carriers will be fitted with the cats and traps system; [80367]

(3) what provision he has made within his Department's budget to cover any additional costs arising from the decision to fit one of the Queen Elizabeth class carriers with cats and traps. [80368]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been taken on which carrier will be fitted with catapults and arrestor gear; we expect to conclude work to enable firm decisions on the optimum conversion solution in late 2012. Conversion to carry the Carrier Variant (CV) Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) will provide greater capability than the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) JSF and greater interoperability with our allies. The CV JSF has a longer range, carries a greater payload and costs less to purchase than the STOVL JSF.

To date, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has spent around £13 million on investigations into conversion of the operational Queen Elizabeth (QE) class aircraft carrier. The MOD has approved expenditure of up to £48 million for study work on conversion up to the end of March 2012.

Costs for the remainder of our investigations—to December 2012—remain under development and are due to be considered by the MOD approving authorities in February 2012.

The National Audit Office's (NAO)'s report on carrier strike capability (published 7 July 2011), suggested a cost range for converting one carrier of £800-£1,200 million. We have made provision in Planning Round 11 consistent with our initial estimates and this is within

the range identified by the NAO. We therefore consider conversion affordable on the basis of our current understanding. However, as our investigations into the exact costs of conversion are continuing it is possible that we may need to adjust this provision as information matures.

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much will be paid to the Government of Germany under the terms of the NATO SOFA Supplementary Agreement on the return of armed forces to the UK; and on what timescale such payments will be made. [81294]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Under the terms of the NATO SOFA Supplementary Agreement, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is responsible in certain circumstances for payment of compensation for damage to property provided by the Federal Republic of Germany. Damages are offset against any residual value from sterling funded investments. These calculations are yet to be undertaken and the timescales are not yet known. However, on the basis of past experience it is anticipated the MOD is unlikely to incur any costs.

Armed Forces: Members

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the assessment and recommendations on the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme made in the Kiszely report remain the policy of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [80926]

Nick Harvey: The assessment and recommendations of the 2006 Kiszely report remain valid for the purpose and method of delivery of the scheme.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to announce the final figures for redundancies in the armed forces arising from his restructuring of the armed forces. [80322]

Mr Robathan: The strategic defence and security review announced a reduction in the armed forces of 17,000 by 2015. In order to achieve a balanced drawdown which ensures that the services retain sustainable structures, the full range of manning levers is being employed. These include natural turnover, a reduction in recruiting, and an armed forces redundancy programme.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for his proposed restructuring of the armed forces and for the redundancies arising from that restructuring. [80323]

Mr Robathan: While the number, timing and size of the redundancy tranches has yet to be finalised, the armed forces redundancy programme which was initiated in October 2010 will be completed by 2015. Personnel selected for redundancy in Tranche 1 were notified in September 2011. It is anticipated that the details of Tranche 2 will be announced in the new year.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultations he has conducted with members of the armed forces below the rank of officer on his proposed restructuring of the armed forces. [80324]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 993-94W, to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Armed Trade: Cluster Munitions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if *(a)* he and *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Security, were aware (i) prior to and (ii) during the Parliamentary Under-Secretary's attendance at the IDEX arms fair in February 2011 in the United Arab Emirates, that cluster munitions were being sold at the fair; and if he will make it his policy not to send any Government representatives to attend arms fairs that promote products banned in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [79025]

Mr Philip Hammond: Defence Ministers attend exhibitions as part of our defence diplomacy initiative and to promote UK industry overseas. They are not routinely made aware of items that will be on show at defence and security exhibitions in advance of attendance.

Exhibitors are bound by the laws and conventions of the host country organising the event, which may differ to UK laws. The United Arab Emirates is not a signatory to the convention on cluster munitions. However, UK firms are subject to UK legislation, including the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010.

Defence: Procurement

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected time scales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers. [80517]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The original budget for the demonstration and manufacture phases of the Queen Elizabeth (QE) Class aircraft carriers at their Main Gate approval in July 2007 was £3.54 billion. The previous Government then took the decision to delay construction owing to financial pressures, resulting in direct cost increases of £1.3 billion by May 2010, but with no increase in capability. The current equivalent forecast to build both ships is £5.13 billion. These figures do not include any costs to convert the operational carrier to Carrier Variant, as a result of the decision taken by this Government as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The planned in-service dates for HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales are 2016 and 2018 respectively—however, these dates may change once our conversion investigations are complete and we have decided which ship will be converted.

The carriers are being built by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, which comprises BAE Systems, Babcock Marine, Thales UK and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The project does not have a prime contractor in the traditional sense and each member of the Alliance has equal decision-making rights. However, for various technical and financial reasons, activity is contracted by MOD to BAE Systems who then flow work to their Alliance Industrial partners using manufacturing flow through agreements.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Beyond Visual Range Air to Air Missile project. [80809]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The National Audit Office's Major Projects Report 2011 reported that the original budget for the demonstration and manufacture phases of the beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) programme was £1,136 million (original approval granted in 2002),with the final cost projected to be £1,115 million. BVRAAM is expected to enter service on Typhoon in 2015. The prime contractor is MBDA-UK, which is not part of a consortium.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68W, on departmental procurement, how many contracts his Department awarded to companies providing consultancy services in 2010-11; how many such contracts involved the provision of consultant staff working within his Department; how many such staff are in place currently; and if he will make a statement. [78208]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) awarded 152 contracts in financial year 2010-11 to companies providing services under the Government procurement services definition of consultancy. The MOD does not hold information centrally on how many contracts involved the provision of consultants within the Department or how many consultants are currently in place. We contract with consultancy companies to deliver a specific output at an agreed price. The resourcing of individual consultancy contracts is therefore a matter for the contractors we engage.

Consultants can help us to increase our efficiency and effectiveness, but we engage them only when we cannot do the work ourselves and where we can demonstrate clear value for money. There are currently stringent controls on consultancy spend across Government.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each consultancy employed by his Department to renegotiate defence contracts; and what the *(a)* daily rate of each consultant, *(b)* total amount paid to the consultancy to date and *(c)* bonus or incentive schemes included in the contract with each consultancy is. [81293]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 42-43W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Thomas Docherty).

AlixPartners remains the only company employed by the Ministry of Defence to support its renegotiation of defence contracts.

Data Protection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official ministerial papers were recorded as not returned to his Department or otherwise unaccounted for in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76809]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* We have taken the phrase 'ministerial papers' to mean Cabinet Committee papers. These are circulated electronically to relevant branches of the Department who are notified to destroy them after one month. Individual branches are responsible for handling this material and no central record is kept.

While we are not aware of any Cabinet papers that are unaccounted for, a comprehensive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Any significant losses of other papers are reported on a case-by-case basis to Ministers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the record of interests he provided to his Department's permanent secretary on his appointment. [75511]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* Section 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the procedures for handling Ministers' interests. An updated list of Ministers' interests will be published shortly by the Cabinet Office.

Dubai

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date it was decided and by whom that his predecessor would return from Afghanistan via Dubai in June 2011; [76190]

(2) for how long the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) stayed in Dubai during the stopover which commenced on 16 to 17 June 2011; what the purpose of the stopover was; and what the cost to the public purse was of the accommodation for *(a)* his predecessor and *(b)* officials of his Department during the stopover. [76191]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Visits to Afghanistan are regularly undertaken via a number of Gulf states including Dubai. In the period before the visit to Afghanistan of 14 to 16 June 2011, Private Office officials, in consultation with the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), the Ministry of Defence policy staffs, and in-country national representatives, considered opportunities for Key Leader Engagement (KLE) and media engagement in Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the return leg in the period 16 to 19 June.

In the week prior to the visit, the opportunities for engagement in Oman became unavailable, and updates from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advised that engagement in Bahrain at that time was not now advisable. On 13 June, the day before departure from the UK, information was received from posts that the calls intended in the UAE might not happen due to changed availability of those that my right hon. Friend hoped to see. However, it was recommended that the days in the UAE be kept in the expectation that calls could either be re-established or alternatives found; similarly, it was decided that the media engagements arranged for 19 June should remain as planned in order to achieve their objectives.

My right hon. Friend and his accompanying officials arrived in Dubai late on 16 June and departed on 19 June. Regrettably, KLE was not achieved on 17 (a holy day) and 18 June but media engagement was undertaken on 19 June. The accommodation was chosen on the basis of the original itinerary and security considerations; the cost of three nights' accommodation for my right hon. Friend was £580.95; the total cost of accommodation for the two accompanying officials for the same period was £959.83.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the UK is playing in explosive ordnance disposal in Libya. [81099]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is providing a small team of military experts to support a US-led quick reaction force, which is working in partnership with the Libyan authorities to secure, disable and destroy Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADs). In addition, the Department for International Development is providing financial support for the clearance of explosive remnants of war through the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the United Nations Mines Action Service (UNMAS).

South East Asia: Military Alliances

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to strengthen the Five Power Defence Arrangements. [79934]

Mr Philip Hammond: Membership of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) remains the focus of the Ministry of Defence's engagement in south east Asia. I visited Singapore and Malaysia at the beginning of November to participate in commemorative events marking the fortieth anniversary of the Arrangements, and publicly acknowledged the FPDA's enduring value. Defence Ministers from the other four nations and I discussed how best to take the FPDA forward. We agreed to implement a number of recommendations arising from a major stock take of the FPDA's structure and activities. These measures will strengthen the arrangements in line with both the changing security environment and the needs of the five members.

Stephen Crouch

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has agreed any contracts with companies or organisations in which Mr Stephen Crouch is *(a)* a director or *(b)* a significant shareholder since May 2010. [79267]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold information on companies or organisations of which Mr Stephen Crouch is a director or in which he is a significant shareholder.

Mr Crouch is, however, known to the MOD as a director of Iraq Research Group Limited. There is no record, on the MOD contracts database, of any contracts having been awarded to this company in recent years.

Submarines

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs dependent on orders for submarines in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the North West; [80459]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount spent in the North West as a result of his Department's orders for submarines. [80460]

Peter Luff: These data are not held by the Ministry of Defence. The UK defence budget has never been allocated or planned on a regional basis and decisions on where contracts with industry are placed are not taken in order to benefit one local economy or industry sector over another.

Trident

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish all evidence submitted to the Trident Alternatives Review on its completion. [80280]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* In looking at alternative systems and postures, the review draws upon highly classified technical, intelligence and policy information covering extremely sensitive national security issues. There are, therefore, no plans to publish either the report or the information it draws upon.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he plans to keep hon. Members informed of the progress and cost of the Trident replacement programme in the remainder of this Parliament prior to the Main Gate point. [80281]

Mr Philip Hammond: Both this Government and the previous Administration have regularly updated Parliament on the nuclear deterrent. In recognition of the level of public and parliamentary interest, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) intends to provide an annual update to Parliament; the first of these was produced for the Initial Gate announcement in May of this year. The precise format and timing of subsequent statements is yet to be decided. The MOD will also keep Parliament informed of any major developments on the programme as and when they occur.

Yemen

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is planning to take to implement the priorities for his Department set out in the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in Yemen. [80510]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The principles of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy underpin the British Government's response to Yemen's manifold challenges. The three lead Departments, the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence have for some time worked closely together to deliver an integrated and coherent cross-Government approach. Our strategy has focused on degrading al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to the point where they no longer pose a strategic threat, and halting Yemen's decline into state failure by reducing conflict and grievances and increasing the capacity of the state.

Our cross-Government conflict management programmes aim to strengthen popular participation in the political process, to bridge the gap between governed and the governing elite. The programme focuses on tribal and community structures, professionalising security and justice services, refugee and host community conflict reduction, water-related conflict issues and election-related violence. We also continue to provide training for a very small number of Yemeni officers on key courses in the United Kingdom.

The current security situation in Yemen has significantly reduced our ability to deliver against our strategy. The Government hope to be able to provide support in order to increase Yemen's ability to manage tensions and shocks and hence reduce instability and conflict in the future; however, future engagement will be dependent on the political and security situation in Yemen.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the average proportion of stemwood combusted in biomass generating plants. [81511]

Gregory Barker: Stemwood is a generic term which covers a range of different products from forestry. Based on returns submitted to Ofgem for the renewables obligation period April 2010 to March 2011, the types of wood reported as combusted in biomass generating stations include; brash, recycled wood, wood from tree surgery, forestry and timber processing rejects, forest stumps, sawmill co-products and offcuts, forestry waste wood, wood pellets, recycled fibre, small roundwood, sawdust and sawmill chip. Of these, only brash and forest stumps would not be classified as stemwood.

A total of 1,818,326 metric tonnes of wood were reported to be combusted, of which about 0.9% comprised brash and stump wood.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on achieving self-sufficiency in the sourcing of biomass within the UK; and if he will make a statement. [81522]

Gregory Barker: We have no policy for self-sufficiency and expect sustainably-sourced, imported biomass to play a role in meeting our 2020 renewable energy target, particularly in large-scale biomass power generation.

However, we are looking to increase UK biomass supplies by bringing forward more of our wood and forestry residues to market, by better management of our waste resources and by developing other biomass resources, such as purpose-grown perennial energy crops on low-grade land unsuitable for food crops.

In June 2011, the Forestry Commission launched its Woodfuel Implementation Plan, which sets out actions to bring forward an additional two million tonnes of UK wood per year by 2020. DEFRA will consult next year on the introduction of landfill restrictions on waste wood, and DECC is consulting on proposals to provide grandfathered, additional support for the use of perennial crops under the renewables obligation from April 2013.

Biofuels: Health Hazards

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria his Department has set for acceptable levels of emissions of arsenic in microgrammes per cubic metre from biomass plants burning waste wood in consideration of planning applications for biomass plants. [78000]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

If waste wood contains halogenated organic compounds or heavy metals as a result of its treatment with wood preservatives or coating, the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC), which is applied through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010, requires that the total concentration of a specified range of metals and their compounds, including arsenic, shall not exceed 0.5 mg/m^3 in emissions to air when burnt in a technical unit, irrespective of the unit's capacity. If all the waste wood to be burnt is free of those substances, the waste incineration directive does not apply.

Under other provisions of the environmental permitting regulations, burning of any non-waste fuel in a combustion unit of greater than 20 megawatts is subject to regulatory controls on any likely significant emission of pollutant to air.

Energy: Billing

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of energy companies on the effects on customers of the failure of companies to resolve billing complaints within an acceptable time-frame; [81678]

(2) what arrangements are in place to impose financial penalties on energy companies that fail to resolve customers' billing complaints within an acceptable time-frame; [81679]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that energy companies resolve their customers' billing complaints within an acceptable time-frame. [81680]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Individual consumer billing complaints are dealt with by the energy company itself by following its formal complaint process. If a company fails to offer a satisfactory resolution they will issue a deadlock letter which allows

domestic and micro business customers to pursue the matter with the energy ombudsman. Domestic and micro business customers can also approach the ombudsman direct if a complaint has not been resolved within eight weeks. The ombudsman has the power to award compensation up to £5,000 (inc VAT) and its final decisions are binding on its members.

Larger business customers can address billing complaints by using the legal system.

Energy: Meters

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide an update on the plans for the roll-out of smart meters. [77978]

Charles Hendry: We have made good progress so far in taking forward the smart metering programme meeting a number of key milestones in line with our stated ambition to complete the roll-out in 2019. In August 2011, we published consultations on draft licence conditions and technical specifications for the roll-out[1], and on draft licence conditions for an installation code of practice[2]. Also in August, we issued a call for evidence on data access and privacy[3]. In September 2011, we published a consultation on the regulatory and commercial framework for Data Communications Co. (DCC)[4]. In addition, the procurement of service providers for the DCC has been started.

Work since the start of phase 2 in April 2011 has led us to re-examine a number of our planning assumptions. We are currently discussing these assumptions with industry and we also expect responses to our latest consultations to provide further relevant information. We expect that before the end of the year we will be in a position to confirm whether any amendments to the plan are required.

[1] DECC, Consultation on draft licence conditions and technical specifications for the roll-out of gas and electricity smart metering equipment, August 2011.

[2] DECC, Consultation on draft licence conditions for a code of practice for the installation of smart electricity and gas meters, August 2011.

[3] DECC, A call for evidence on data access and privacy, August 2011.

[4] DECC, Consultation on the detailed policy design of the regulatory and commercial framework for DCC, September 2011.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of smart metering on consumers living in remote rural areas. [80869]

Gregory Barker: The Government believe all consumers should have the opportunity to benefit from smart meters regardless of where they live. The August 2011 impact assessments for the Smart Meter programme identified that over the next 20 years, the rollout of smart meters is expected to deliver £7.1 billion net benefits to consumers, energy suppliers and networks. Benefits to consumers include the provision of accurate billing and near real time information on their energy consumption to help them control energy use, save money and reduce emissions. Smart prepayment meters would also provide scope for introducing different payment methods, which may assist those in rural areas who have to travel further to access key-charging services or to purchase tokens.

DECC is currently developing an evaluation plan, which will consider how to assess any potential differential access to benefits or impacts across types of consumer and region. We intend to publish the evaluation plan by spring 2012.

Energy: Prices

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from what date he expects the average cost of a duel fuel energy bill will be 10 per cent. of median household income; and if he will make a statement. [80004]

Charles Hendry: In 2009 the average household dual fuel energy bill (gas and electricity) was £1,113,[1] representing 5.2% of median household income of £21,400.[2] Global fossil fuels prices are the main driver of UK energy bills and although future movements in their prices are uncertain, the increases required for the average household dual fuel bill to represent 10% of median household income are not expected going forward.[3]

Nevertheless the coalition Government are not being complacent and are committed to help households save energy, to provide support for the most vulnerable households and to reduce the UK's reliance on fossil fuels. Additionally, since July 2010 we have made a number of policy announcements which mean that the impact of energy and climate change policies on the average household and medium-sized business user's energy bill is expected to be lower. These announcements include proposals on Electricity Market Reform and the Green Deal, the introduction of the Carbon Price Floor, consultations on new cost-effective levels of support for large-scale renewable electricity and lower tariffs and energy efficiency eligibility requirement for solar PV under the Feed-in-Tariff scheme, the decisions to fund the Renewable Heat Incentive from general taxation rather than through a levy on fossil fuel suppliers and the decision to consider several alternative funding options for the Government's CCS commitments rather than through their own levy.

Updated energy bill estimates accounting for all these announcements and proposed changes will be published alongside the forthcoming Annual Energy Statement later this year.

[1] Calculated assuming an annual consumption of 18,000 kWh of gas and 3,300 kWh of electricity. DECC, Quarterly Energy Prices:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/stats/publications/qep/2867-qep-sep11.pdf

Real Prices 2009

[2] Unequivalised median income, real prices 2009-10, before housing costs. Based on DWP Statistical Publications, Households Below Average Income:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai2010/index.php?page=contents

[3] DECC, Estimated Impacts of Energy and Climate Change Policies on Energy Prices and Bills:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filetype=4&filepath=What+we+do%2fUK+energy+supply%2f236-impacts-energy-climate-change-policies.pdf&minwidth=true#basket

Annex C, Table C2.

Environment Protection

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of new investment required per annum for the next 15 years to achieve a low carbon economy. [80562]

Gregory Barker: The Government are pursuing the transition to a low carbon economy through a range of policies, covering multiple sectors.

In the power sector, the electricity market reform White Paper[1] estimates that total investment of £110 billion is needed in electricity generation infrastructure by 2020 to meet our decarbonisation targets, while simultaneously ensuring security of supply and keeping electricity bills affordable. This figure covers all investment however, and not just the additional investment required to decarbonise electricity generation.

In industry, the carbon reduction commitment is estimated to generate capital investments totalling around £270 million up to 2025, as noted in the January 2010 impact assessment[2].

For transport, an assessment was made of the costs of transport policies to reduce carbon in the impact assessment of the 'Carbon Reduction Strategy for Transport, Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future'[3]. The impact assessment estimated costs of investment in technologies at £26 billion (2009) over the lifetime of the measures.

Significant capital expenditure will also be required in other sectors of the economy. The forthcoming Green Deal and energy company obligation consultation impact assessment will present estimates of the levels capital spending associated with associated energy efficiency measures.

The Government will also be laying out the investment required to meet the fourth Carbon Budget (2023-27) in a forthcoming publication.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/policy-legislation/EMR/2176-emr-white-paper.pdf

[2] http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/1_20100120102757_e_@@_crcconsia.pdf

[3] http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/carbonreduction/ia.pdf

Gas-fired Power Stations

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many proposed gas-fired combined-cycle gas turbine plants are awaiting approval by his Department; and what the megawatt capacity of each such plant is. [78696]

Charles Hendry: There are three combined cycle gas turbines (CCGT) applications for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 currently being considered by my Department. The maximum generating capacities of these are 875 MW (Wyre, Fleetwood), 1,220 MW (Drakelow E), and 1,260 MW (Sutton Bridge B).

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the financial stability of the Project Horizon nuclear plant consortium; and what due diligence his Department is performing on the programme. [81374]

Charles Hendry: The Department continues to monitor each of the consortia, including Horizon, which plan to build new nuclear power stations in the UK. The parent companies of Horizon (RWE and EoN) have recently confirmed their commitment to the UK. Horizon is progressing well with their site preparation work has recently demonstrated its financial commitment to the development of its nuclear new build plans through the completion of its purchase of land for the company's proposed development at Wylfa on Anglesey.

Nuclear Power: Employment

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of jobs which are *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly reliant on the nuclear power industry; and what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which will be created by the construction of new nuclear power stations. [81372]

Charles Hendry: Cogent, the sector skills council for nuclear, estimates that the civil nuclear industry today provides employment for 44,000 people. Of these, 24,000 are employed directly by the nuclear operators. The remainder are employed in the direct supply chain to the nuclear industry.

It is estimated that each new nuclear power station will employ around 5,000 people during peak construction and 1,000 people during operation.

Renewable Energy

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which renewable energy technology his Department has assessed as the quickest to deploy. [80115]

Gregory Barker: In July 2011, the Government published the "UK Renewable Energy Roadmap"[1] that sets out the eight key renewable energy technologies that are capable of making the most significant and cost-effective contribution to the achievement of the UK's renewables goals.

Based on the latest information available, the report states that the eight key technologies are onshore wind, offshore wind, marine energy, biomass electricity, biomass heat, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps and renewable transport.

The report includes illustrative scenarios of the deployment potential of the eight key technologies up to 2020 based on underlying assumptions about potential build rates, as well as factors such as potential cost-effectiveness, but do not represent technology specific targets or the level of the Government's ambition.

[1] UK Renewable Energy Roadmap, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential job losses arising from his planned changes to the feed-in tariff scheme. [80380]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment.

In the impact assessment supporting the consultation on FITs for solar PV:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

we estimate that 1,000-10,000 gross additional FTE could be created in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under our proposals. This estimate relates to solar PV installations only and does not account for jobs created as a result of the proposed energy efficiency requirement, so it is unclear whether solar PV-related employment will fall.

Furthermore, it should be noted that current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched. Any jobs that are affected are dependent on rates of support above those the scheme was intended to provide, and should not therefore be considered sustainable.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the impact assessment on his proposed changes to feed-in tariffs what estimate his Department has made of the length of time required for energy bill savings to repay the £5,600 required to bring a household up to energy performance certificate level C. [81081]

Gregory Barker: The measures required to reach C rating depend on the individual characteristics of the house. In addition, the length of time required to pay back the initial investment through savings on the energy bill depends on the package of measures installed and on the particular property.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures for off-mains gas households he is considering as part of the Renewable Heat Incentive. [81454]

Gregory Barker: DECC currently has a renewable heat premium payment that is targeted at households living off the gas grid. We are currently developing proposals for supporting renewable heat in the domestic sector, which will include consideration of measures for households off the gas grid, and will consult on them in due course.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of renewable heat incentive premium payments made *(a)* to households where the replaced heating equipment was working well and *(b)* to households consisting of four bedrooms or more in the latest period in which figures are available. [81615]

Gregory Barker: We have received preliminary results from the initial batch of the first customer surveys returned under the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme.

Of the 222 people who have so far responded to the survey, 63% (77) indicated that the system was working well (100 people installed solar thermal so have kept their original heating system). 69% of all respondents live in a property of four bedrooms or more.

Solar Power

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK electricity needs which could be generated by solar photovoltaic installations. [79906]

Gregory Barker: The 2050 calculator developed by my Department suggests that solar PV could contribute up to 127 TWh of electricity a year by 2030 and 140 TWh by 2050. This would be an extremely ambitious level of deployment without precedent anywhere else in the world, equivalent to covering 1.3% of the UK in solar panels by 2050—approximately the same area as that currently covered by buildings. Without accompanying electricity storage infrastructure, it could also only generate electricity during daylight hours.

Were the electricity generation of 2010 (381 TWh)[1] to be maintained out to 2050, this level of deployment would meet up to 37% of total electricity daytime demand. However, the 2050 Pathways Analysis[2] published by my Department earlier this year suggests that electricity demand is likely to increase in the future, so this maximum potential figure is likely to be far lower in reality.

[1] UMG, DUKES 2011—chapter 5, 2011

[2] HMG, 2050 Pathways Analysis: the Government's Response to the Call for Evidence—part 1, 2011

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of people employed in the solar industry. [81323]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

HM Government have made no official estimate of employment in the solar industry.

However, independent research commissioned by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills estimate that photovoltaic renewable energy (i.e. solar power) employed 39,000 across 2,000 businesses in 2009-10.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he undertook an assessment of the effect on existing orders and contracts for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations when setting 12 December 2011 as the date for the introduction of the reduced solar PV feed-in tariffs. [79907]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for South Suffolk (Mr Yeo), on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 592W.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he undertook an impact assessment on the loss of income to solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing and installation companies when determining the proposed reductions to solar PV feed-in tariffs. [79908]

Gregory Barker: We have not made an estimate of the loss of income to companies in the solar photovoltaic (PV) sector due to the proposals in the consultation on feed in tariffs for solar PV.

The overall effect of the consultation proposals on the income of companies in the solar PV sector is uncertain, as many will be able to provide services related to the proposed energy efficiency requirement.

It should be noted that current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched, and that the proposed new tariffs are intended to ensure that returns go back to a similar level. Any commercial income lost is dependent on rates of support above those the scheme was intended to provide, and should not therefore be considered sustainable going forward.

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect on energy prices if no action were taken to reduce feed-in tariffs for solar energy before April 2012 in *(a)* high and *(b)* central forecast scenarios. [80219]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV), available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

estimates the impact on the average annual household energy bill of the subsidy cost associated with both a no change scenario and the proposed new feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV), under central growth rate projections. Under the central scenario, with no change to tariffs the estimated impact would be to increase annual household energy bills by around £26 per year in 2020.

If PV growth is higher than the central estimate (according to assumptions for the high growth scenario set out in the impact assessment) the impact could be to increase the average annual household electricity bill by around £55 per year in 2020, on top of a projected annual average electricity bill of £535 in the absence of FITs.

There is considerable uncertainty around future bill impacts of FITs as solar PV costs have declined rapidly to date and hence future costs (and therefore uptake) are uncertain.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment if the feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaic is reduced before 31 March 2012. [80439]

Gregory Barker: An Impact Assessment-has been published to support the consultation on Feed-in Tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This includes an assessment of the economic impacts of the consultation proposals, including the impact on jobs. The Impact Assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the impact assessment on his proposed changes to feed-in tariffs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs that will be lost in the solar industry as a result of the reduction in uptake for feed-in tariffs predicted from December 2011. [81082]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment.

In the Impact Assessment supporting the consultation on FITs for solar PV:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

we estimate that 1,000 to 10,000 gross additional FTE could be created in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under our proposals. This estimate relates to solar PV installations only and does not account for jobs created as a result of the proposed energy efficiency requirement, so it is unclear whether solar PV-related employment will fall. Furthermore, it should be noted that current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched. Any jobs that are affected are dependent on rates of support above those the scheme was intended to provide, and should not therefore be considered sustainable.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the potential additional cost of introducing his proposed reductions to solar feed-in tariff rates on *(a)* 31 January 2012, *(b)* 29 February 2012 and *(c)* 31 March 2012; and if he will estimate the equivalent cost for an average (i) industrial and (ii) domestic consumer. [81083]

Gregory Barker: The Impact Assessment published alongside the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV estimates the range of costs to consumers for a reference date of 12 December 2011 (Option 2) and a reference date of 1 April 2012 (Option 3). Under the central scenario, assuming a linear increase in costs from later reference dates, we estimate that the additional costs associated with a reference date later than 12 December 2012 would be as follows:

Reference date	*Additional cost to consumers over spending review period (£ million)*	*Additional impact on average domestic bill in 2014 (£)*	*Additional impact on average medium-size business user bill in 2014 (£)*
31 January 2012	81	0.36	1,000

Reference date	*Additional cost to consumers over spending review period (£ million)*	*Additional impact on average domestic bill in 2014 (£)*	*Additional impact on average medium-size business user bill in 2014 (£)*
29 February 2012	128	0.57	1,600
31 March 2012	178	0.79	2,200

The average annual domestic electricity bill is projected to be £610 in 2014 in the absence of FITs. The average medium size business user's electricity bill in 2014 is projected to be £1.4 million in the absence of FITs. (Bill projections are in 2010 prices, undiscounted and rounded).

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what legal advice he received prior to taking the decision to implement changes to the solar PV tariffs before the statutory consultation was completed. [81114]

Gregory Barker: No decision has been taken to implement changes to feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) before consultation is completed. The proposal on which the Government are consulting is to bring new tariffs into force on 1 April 2012, which will apply from that date to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December 2011. Responses to the consultation will be carefully considered before any final decision is taken.

Legal advice obtained by the Department is confidential and the subject of legal professional privilege.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Adam Werritty

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson) of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 157W, on Adam Werritty, whether a Minister in his Department requested that officials attend each such meeting; and whether any particular countries were discussed at those meetings. [80982]

Mr Lidington: No Minister requested officials to attend each such meeting. The discussions covered a range of issues.

Afghanistan: War Crimes

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the Government of Afghanistan's approach to immunity for individuals accused of serious violations of human rights and war crimes in Afghanistan. [80110]

Alistair Burt: When human rights violations occur or where war crimes may have been committed, they should be investigated in accordance with international practices and those responsible should be held to account. We expect the Afghan Government to abide by their national and international human rights commitments.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on medical staff in Bahrain who were made subject to legal proceedings following the provision of treatment to patients. [80741]

Alistair Burt: I was deeply concerned to hear on 29 September 2011 the sentencing of Bahraini medical personnel to between five and 15 years in prison after the briefest of hearings in a special tribunal. I spoke to the Bahraini ambassador in London the next day to reiterate our position.

The Bahraini Attorney-General announced on 6 October that the medics' case would be retried in a civilian court. We welcomed this development and the first hearing was held on 23 October 2011 to cover preliminary matters.

We continue to encourage the Bahraini authorities to ensure due process is fairly and transparently followed in all cases. It is essential that all defendants have access to legal counsel and are tried before independent, impartial, civil tribunals.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80713]

Mr Lidington: We do not hold records of judicial reviews against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) during the last Parliament centrally, and cannot provide this information accurately without incurring disproportionate cost. 26 applications for judicial review have been made against the FCO since May 2010.

In 11 of these cases, proceedings have been brought against FCO jointly with other Government Departments. In relation to these 26 cases:

(a) In six cases proceedings are actively ongoing;

(b) In 11 cases settlements have been reached, the question of who should bear costs has yet to be decided;

(c) In four cases the court refused permission for judicial review, costs were awarded against the claimants in these cases but have not been paid;

(d) In one case a settlement was reached with each side bearing their own costs;

(e) In one case, which went to final judgment FCO succeeded and the FCO was

awarded costs against the claimant, but these costs have yet to be assessed;

(f) In one case the claim succeeded and the FCO with the other Government Departments involved were ordered to pay the claimant's costs. The FCO share was £12,500;

(g) In one case the claim was partially successful. The FCO and other Government Departments involved were ordered to pay the claimant's costs, which are yet to be assessed;

(h) In one case the FCO was initially joined as a party, but was subsequently removed as a party without incurring costs.

The total of the bills that we have received in relation to the payment of FCO legal costs in these cases is approximately £325,500. However, there may be some additional ongoing work that is not accounted for in the bills to date.

Egypt: Embassies

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Egyptian authorities about the protection of UK diplomatic premises and staff in Egypt. [80468]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Cairo has regular discussions with the Egyptian authorities about the protection of UK diplomatic premises and staff in Egypt. However, it is longstanding Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice not to comment on the detail of these discussions.

European Union: Powers

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 582-83W, on European Union, on what date the Government commenced work on an examination of the balance of the EU's existing competencies; how many civil servants are engaged in the work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time; and when he expects the work to be complete. [79125]

Mr Lidington: Work on the examination of the balance of the EU's existing competences, as set out in the coalition agreement, has begun, but is in its preliminary stages and is drawing on existing resources. There is no formal timetable for the work, but we will keep Parliament fully informed of our plans.

Heritage Oil

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met representatives of Heritage Oil or any of its subsidiaries since May 2010. [80642]

Mr Lidington: A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

In addition, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was approached by a representative of Heritage Oil at a Conservative Party event at the Carlton Club in March 2011. The Foreign Secretary asked him to put any representation in writing.

Human Rights

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to encourage companies to adopt the UN protect, respect and remedy framework for business and human rights in their global activities. [80867]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government expect UK businesses to operate at all times in a way respectful of human rights whether in Britain or overseas. Following the UN Human Rights Council's June 2011 endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in which the UK played an important role, the Government are fully committed to implementing those principles as part of a wider strategy on business and human rights. A cross-Whitehall steering group has been formed to co-ordinate input from across relevant Government Departments into the strategy's formulation. We also plan to seek inputs to this process from the business world and non-governmental individuals and organisations.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the trial of seven Baha'i educators in Iran associated with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education; and if he will make a statement. [80492]

Alistair Burt: I met with representatives from the Baha'i community in the UK on 15 September to discuss the continuing repression of the Baha'i minority in Iran and to hear reports on the latest situation of the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education, including the trial of seven educators. The closure of the Institute and arrest of members of its staff form part of a wider pattern of harassment of Baha'is in Iran, including the imprisonment of Baha'i leaders. We regularly raise these issues with the Iranian authorities, for example when I met the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in August this year. We will continue to press the Iranian Government to accord all their people the right to freedom of religion. With our EU partners, the UK has taken co-ordinated action to address Iran's human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for human rights violations, including Government Ministers and members of the judiciary.

Iraq: Iran

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with EU Ambassador Jean de Ruyt on the envoy sent into Camp Ashraf following the Iraqi Government deadline for the closure of the camp. [81074]

Alistair Burt: I met Ambassador Jean de Ruyt on 27 October 2011 following his recent appointment to advise Baroness Ashton, Vice President of the European Commission, on Camp Ashraf. He highlighted the urgent need to address the humanitarian situation at Camp Ashraf, and agreed that the Government of Iraq and the leadership of Camp Ashraf should negotiate a peaceful and durable solution. We continue to urge the

Iraqi Government to ensure the protection of the human rights of the residents of Camp Ashraf in accordance with international and domestic Iraqi law. We will remain in close touch with Ambassador Jean de Ruyt. We understand that he has no current plans to visit Camp Ashraf.

Israel: Embassies

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the Israeli Government about the protection of the Israeli embassy in London and its staff. [80469]

Alistair Burt: We have not received recent representations from the Israeli Government about the protection of the Israeli embassy in London. I regularly meet the Israeli ambassador to London, most recently on 7 November, and this issue has not been raised.

The security of the Israeli embassy is delivered by the Diplomatic Protection Group of the Metropolitan Police who maintain a permanent police presence on site and are in constant contact with the Israeli security staff.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the future protection of Israeli embassies in their respective countries. [80756]

Alistair Burt: There have been no recent discussions with European counterparts in relation to the protection of Israeli embassies in their countries. We expect all signatories to the Vienna convention, including our European counterparts, to meet their responsibilities under the convention, including the protection of diplomatic property and personnel.

Following the attack on the Israeli embassy in Cairo on 9 September 2011, the Prime Minister—alongside the EU High Representative and European counterparts—issued a statement condemning the attack, urging the Egyptian authorities to meet their responsibilities under the Vienna convention to protect diplomatic property and personnel, including the Israeli embassy in Cairo.

Libya: Embassies

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on re-opening the Libyan embassy in London. [80114]

Alistair Burt: The Libyan embassy in London remained open throughout the conflict and subsequent political transition in Libya. In line with the Government's decision of 27 July to recognise the National Transitional Council (NTC) as the sole governmental authority in Libya, the then chargé d'affaires was informed that he and other diplomats appointed by the Qadhafi regime were no longer considered to represent Libya and must leave the UK. The Government also invited the NTC to appoint diplomatic representatives. We formally recognised Mr Mahmud Nacua as the new chargé d'affaires on 4 August and he took possession of the embassy premises on 9 August.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department received on *(a)* the size of Hezbollah's arsenal of missiles and *(b)* the range of such missiles in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008, (iv) 2009 and (v) 2010. [80758]

Alistair Burt: We have received various reports and estimates on the size of Hezbollah's rocket and missile arsenal that put the figure in the low tens of thousands. In 2006, Hezbollah's weapons perhaps had ranges up to 150 km. Reports received in 2010 claim the longest range Hezbollah weapon could exceed 300 km.

The reported acquisition of short range ballistic missiles in 2010, such as Fateh-110 and SCUD class missiles, is a step change and one that has received much press coverage.

UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 calls upon the Government of Lebanon to secure its borders and other entry points to prevent the entry in Lebanon without its consent of arms or related material and requests UNIFIL to assist the Government of Lebanon at its request. We remain concerned by reports of weapons transfers to Hezbollah, including Hezbollah's own claims that it possesses significant military capabilities.

The Prime Minister raised the importance of full implementation of UNSCR 1701 with Lebanese Prime Minister Miqati on 7 November 2011. We continue to raise this issue at senior level with the Lebanese, Syrian and Israeli Governments.

Middle East: International Assistance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the findings of the *(a)* Palmer Commission and *(b)* Turkel Commission report on the Gaza Flotilla incident in May 2010. [81479]

Alistair Burt: The UN Palmer report into the Gaza Flotilla in 2010 was published on 2 September. This drew on information provided by the Israeli Turkel Commission, as well as that set up by Turkey. The UK supported the UN Secretary-General's establishment of an independent panel of inquiry to review the incidents that occurred around this event. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs stated at the time that the UK deeply deplored the loss of life and urged strenuous efforts to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

The Palmer report makes clear that the events of 31 May should never have taken place. Turkey and Israel have made public statements on the report. We regret the breakdown in the relationship between them and we continue to urge both sides to renew their efforts to find a way forward that will promote reconciliation and enhance regional stability.

The situation in Gaza is of serious concern to the Government. I visited Gaza in June and raised this issue. He saw for himself a United Nations Relief and Works Agency School. The British ambassador in Tel Aviv and other officials regularly discuss the situation in Gaza with Israeli interlocutors.

While there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza, there is an enduring need for humanitarian aid. We have also been clear that actions by both Israel and Hamas have contributed to the status quo. Working closely with EU and Quartet partners, we will continue to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with the Palestinian National Authority to seek to ensure that any replacement of the Palestinian Negotiation Support Unit is committed to a two-state solution. [80571]

Alistair Burt: We continue to reiterate our calls for negotiations towards a two-state solution. We regularly emphasise the importance of efforts towards this end with the Palestinian National Authority.

The UK continues to be one of the principal supporters of Palestinian state building efforts, assisting them to tackle poverty, build institutions and boost their economy.

We will continue to engage with the Palestinian leadership, including where appropriate through the Negotiation Support Unit, and to reinforce the importance of working towards a two-state solution.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Palestinian Authority on the resumption of peace negotiations with Israel. [80799]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs most recently met President Abbas during UN General Assembly Ministerial week on 20 September, including on efforts to re-start peace negotiations. The British consul general in Jerusalem most recently met President Abbas on instruction to discuss these issues on 8 November.

Middle East: Reconciliation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support the reconciliation work of the Parents Circle Families Forum in Israel and Palestine. [80897]

Alistair Burt: The Government support many organisations in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories whose aims are to promote reconciliation and conflict prevention.

The Parent Circle Families Forum have been part of a mapping study carried out by another organisation that was supported by the British consulate general in Jerusalem, but they are not directly supported by UK funding.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department provides to groups working to promote reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. [80898]

Alistair Burt: Officials from the UK's missions in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are in contact with a wide variety of groups that are working to bring peace and stability to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, including reconciliation, and hold discussions on a variety of issues including what support and assistance Her Majesty's Government can provide.

Under both the MENA Conflict Pool and bi-lateral funding we have provided support to a number of Jewish, Arab-Israeli and Palestinian groups. The aim of this support is to reduce the causes of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, promote co-existence between Israel's Jewish and Arab populations and promote respect for human rights in Israel and the occupied territories.

Organisations supported by the UK include the Hand in Hand school, International Peace and Co-operation Centre and Mercy Corps, as well as the Norwegian Refugee Council and UN Refugee and Works Agency. Additionally, during FY 2011-12 we have established a joint UK-Israeli Taskforce to support a range of projects assisting Israel's Arab communities and promoting positive relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel. This has resulted in some new initiatives to promote Arab language and culture in Israeli schools, supporting young Arab Israelis to gain skills and create a mechanism to enable them to participate alongside young Jewish entrants in Israel's flourishing hi-tech sector.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had any discussions with (i) the Israeli authorities, (ii) the Palestinian authorities, (iii) his US counterparts, (iv) his EU counterpart and (v) the UN on promoting reconciliation in Israel and Palestine since May 2010. [80900]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I, as well as our officials, have held numerous meetings with the various counterparts mentioned, including to discuss how to resolve the middle east peace process and promote reconciliation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Providing the detail of each interaction since May 2010 would entail disproportionate cost.

Pakistan: Cluster Munitions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan on the stands at the DSEi 2011 arms event belonging to *(a)* Pakistan Ordnance Factories and *(b)* the Defence Export Promotion organisation of Pakistan that were closed for displaying promotional material for cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [81341]

Alistair Burt: Officials in the Export Control Organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, together with representatives of HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency, worked closely with the organisers of DSEi 2011 before, during and after the conference. The organisers became aware during the conference of a breach by Pakistani exhibitors and took action accordingly.

Private Military and Security Companies

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to put in place a system of standards and certification for private security companies operating in *(a)* high-risk environments and *(b)* the maritime and anti-piracy sector; and if he will make a statement. [80192]

Mr Bellingham: We have been working for a number of years on how best to ensure there is a national and international regulatory system in place for the private security sector that is practicable, affordable and effective and that minimise the risk of human rights abuses.

As I confirmed in my written ministerial statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 7WS, we have appointed Aerospace, Defence and Security (ADS) as our partner in developing and implementing UK national standards for private security companies (PSCs). ADS have established a special interest group, the Security in Complex Environments Group (SCEG), which will support the Government in the transparent regulation of all UK-based PSCs which operate in complex and high risk environments, both on land and at sea. Membership of the SCEG is open to all UK-based PSCs who have signed the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (ICOC). Of the 211 PSCs who have now signed up to the ICOC, 80 are UK-based. A third of signatory companies work exclusively in the maritime sector and the remainder work either on land or in both sectors.

Along with the Swiss, US and Australian Governments, industry and non government organisation partners, we are members of the Temporary Steering Group of the ICOC which is working to establish a mechanism and standards to monitor compliance with the ICOC. We expect to publish a draft charter for public consultation in mid January next year, and to be in a position to establish the governance mechanism for the ICOC in mid 2012. ICOC signatory companies will then be able to begin the application process to become certified by the ICOC, through a process of independent compliance audit and verification.

UK national standards for PSCs will be derived from the ICOC standards in order to avoid duplication and minimise the burden on business. For maritime-based PSCs, UK standards will also take into account the draft interim guidance to commercial maritime security providers produced under UK chairmanship in the UN Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

Saudi Arabia: Diplomatic Service

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart about the recent allegations of Iranian involvement in a plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the US; and what his assessment is of whether there is a similar threat to the Saudi ambassador to the UK. [80472]

Alistair Burt: My officials and I have been in close touch with our US counterparts about the recent allegations of Iranian involvement in a plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in Washington—a plot which would appear to constitute a significant escalation in Iran's sponsorship of terrorism outside its borders.

Earlier this month, the UK and US co-sponsored a resolution tabled by Saudi Arabia in the United Nations General Assembly deploring the plot. The resolution, which calls on Iran to co-operate in bringing those responsible to justice, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 November. I call on Iran to respond positively to the United Nations' request.

Since the revelation of the plot, the UK and EU have also imposed an asset freeze on five individuals in relation to terrorist activities.

We keep the potential threat to all diplomatic targets under regular review, including that from Iran. We have no information to suggest that there is a current threat to the Saudi ambassador in the UK. We will continue to work closely with the US and other partners on this issue.

South Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on bombing of the Yida refugee camp and other southern Sudanese territories by Sudan armed forces in the last week; and if he will make a statement. [81620]

Mr Bellingham: We are deeply concerned at reports by the UN and others of aerial bombardment by Sudanese armed forces (SAF) of the Yida refugee camp in south Sudan and elsewhere in the border region. I issued a statement on 10 November condemning the attacks and asked for both sides to refrain from taking further cross-border military action. Our ambassador in Khartoum met the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week to tell them the attacks were unacceptable. Our Defence Attaché also made similar representations to SAF. The attacks are under discussion by the UN Security Council. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Thailand: Roads

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of British citizens who have died in road traffic incidents in Thailand in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [81497]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We hold figures for the total number of deaths of British nationals in Thailand reported to us during the period in question. These are listed in the following table. But our case-handling database does not separately record the number of British nationals who have died in road traffic collisions. To extract this information manually for each year would incur a disproportionate cost. However, we have done so for this year and so far in 2011 our records show 17 British nationals have died in road traffic collisions in Thailand and a further 36 have been seriously injured.

Reported deaths of British nationals in Thailand

	Number
2006-07	269
2007-08	275
2008-09	288
2009-10	292
2010-11	347

British Overseas Territories: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much of the Government's biodiversity conservation budget will be spent in British Overseas Territories in each year from 2012-13 to 2014-15; [80449]

(2) how much of the Government's biodiversity conservation budget was spent in British Overseas Territories in each year from 2010-11; [80450]

(3) what measures the Government have put in place to implement the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy; [80452]

(4) what progress has been made on implementation of the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [80453]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

Following agreement of the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy in 2009, DEFRA has taken the lead in coordinating a partnership of Government Departments overseeing its implementation. This partnership comprises DEFRA, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID), and is supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). As part of this partnership, DEFRA established the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group (OTBG), comprising officials from DEFRA, the FCO, DFID, JNCC and the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA). Chaired by DEFRA, the OTBG is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the strategy.

In terms of delivering the objectives set out in the strategy, formal contact points on biodiversity matters have been established in the territories and, in addition to securing more inclusive UK reporting to multilateral environmental agreements, DEFRA hosted a workshop in September 2011 to improve communication and knowledge of the obligations related to the membership of such agreements. I can report that, by June 2011, 38 discrete projects and/or activities in 10 Overseas Territories have been funded that address four of the strategic priorities of the strategy.

Looking ahead, DEFRA will continue to liaise closely with other Government Departments, inter alia through the OTBG, as well as directly with Overseas Territories and with the UKOTA, to offer such advice and assistance as is within our purview and is appropriate.

Funding amounting to over £1.2 million was spent on biodiversity in Overseas Territories in 2010-11. This comprised a contribution of £200,000, announced by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at last year's Nagoya Biodiversity Conference, towards rodent eradication on the World Heritage site of Henderson Island in the Pitcairn group of islands, which hosts many endangered species of birds, including the Henderson petrel. It also comprised a figure of just over £1 million from DEFRA'S Darwin Initiative for the period 2010-11 towards projects in the Overseas Territories. We are continuing to welcome project proposals for Darwin funding from the territories. Since the Darwin Initiative is now being co-funded by DEFRA and DFID, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs also announced at the Nagoya Biodiversity Conference that funding under Darwin would in fact increase over the spending review period. In addition to this £1.2 million, the JNCC also contributed £150,000 during 2010-11, and a further £10,000 was committed by DEFRA on research and development projects within the Overseas Territories. In view of the current financial climate it is not possible to predict how much will be spent on biodiversity conservation measures in Overseas Territories in future.

As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs reported previously to Parliament, a new global biodiversity target for 2020 was agreed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in October 2010. The Aichi Targets apply to those Overseas Territories to which the Convention on Biological Diversity has been extended.

DEFRA's submission to the Prime Minister on our current and future priorities for providing support to the Overseas Territories will include measures relating to biodiversity.

Finally, turning to the level of staff resource within DEFRA which is committed to working on issues associated with the Overseas Territories over the last five years, it is impossible to be precise. While there is no dedicated service towards supporting work in the Overseas Territories, there are a number of officials who regularly provide advice to the Overseas Territories on a range of issues on which DEFRA leads.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Betting Shops: Planning Permission

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to create a new planning use class for betting shops; and if he will make a statement. [80603]

Robert Neill: Ministers have received representations on this issue, including from a number of hon. Members, the Mayor of London and the Local Government Association. The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee is also taking evidence on this matter as part of its inquiry into the implementation and operation of the Gambling Act 2005.

As I outlined in my answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, my Department is currently considering how change of use is handled in the planning system. This includes examining the issues surrounding the proliferation of betting shops as a result of legislative changes made by the last Administration.

Caravan Sites: Fees and Charges

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on surcharges levied by park sites owners on caravan or static homes owners who sell their property. [80949]

Grant Shapps: As a matter of law the maximum rate of commission a site owner can obtain on the sale of a residential mobile home is 10% of the agreed price. The position is different on the sale of holiday caravans. The amount of commission payable will be a contractual

term of the pitch agreement although industry guidance is that the amount payable should not exceed 15% of the agreed sale price. An unreasonable term relating to commission may not be enforceable under the provisions of the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.

I plan to consult in due course on a range of measures to improve the rights of residential mobile home owners.

Caravan Sites: Licensing

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish his consultation on measures to improve the licensing regime applying to park home and caravan sites. [80859]

Grant Shapps: I plan to publish the consultation in due course.

Council Tax Benefits

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his policy to localise council tax benefit and reduce funding, what assessment he has made of the average reduction in council tax benefits for recipients in non-protected groups. [80604]

Robert Neill: My Department will publish a full impact assessment in due course.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of the removal of council tax discount on empty and second homes owned by local authorities; [79485]

(2) what discussions he has had with local authorities on the cost to local authorities of the removal of the council tax discount on empty and second homes owned by local authorities. [79486]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the consultation paper—Technical Reforms of Council Tax—announced in the written ministerial statement of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS. A copy of the consultation paper has been placed in the Library of the House. We welcome local authorities' comments on these proposals.

Council Tax: Students

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to change the level at which local authorities receive compensation for student exemptions from council tax. [78772]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* Support for student exemptions from council tax is provided through formula grant.

There are no specific changes in the level of this support in the current Local Government Finance Settlement, other than the general changes to formula grant announced as part of that two year settlement.

Details of the final settlement for 2011-12 and the provisional settlement for 2012-13 are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/grant.htm

Ministerial Visits

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities he has visited since his appointment; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [75321]

Robert Neill: Further to the answers I gave to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 680-82W, and 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 887-89W, since 24 May 2011, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has undertaken the following visits on a range of topics across his ministerial responsibilities:

The Cambridge city council area on 24 May 2011;

The London borough of Camden on 26 May 2011;

The Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea on 26 May 2011;

The Sunderland city council, South Tyneside council, Durham county council and Newcastle city council areas on 9 June 2011;

The Hertfordshire county council and Dacorum borough council area on 10 June 2011;

The City of London on 14 June 2011;

The London borough of Ealing area on 21 June 2011;

The Warwickshire county council and Rugby borough council area on 23 June 2011;

The Birmingham city council area on 28 June 2011, 30 June 2011 and 7 July 2011;

The Cardiff council area on 12 July 2011;

The London borough of Camden on 14 July 2011;

The Essex county council and Colchester borough council area on 14 July 2011;

The Sheffield city council area on 28 July 2011;

The Swindon Borough Council area on 16 August 2011;

The London borough of Haringey area and Harlow district council areas on 17 August 2011;

The Thurrock council area on 18 August 2011;

The Newport city council area on 15 September;

The Salford city council area on 23 September 2011;

The Bristol city council area on 27 September 2011;

The Manchester city council area 1-5 October 2011[1];

The Lincolnshire county council and West Lindsey district council area on 13 October 2011;

The Hertfordshire county council and Welwyn Hatfield borough council area on 14 October 2011[1];

The Oxfordshire county council and South Oxfordshire district council area on 15 October 2011[1];

The Norfolk county council and Great Yarmouth borough council area on 27 October 2011; and

The London borough of Croydon on 29 October 2011[1].

[1] Political visit, included in the interests of transparency.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78372]

Robert Neill: Neither the Department for Communities and Local Government, nor the public bodies for which the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is responsible, has had any unpaid or expenses-only internships in the last 12 months. In answering this question I have distinguished internships from work shadowing and volunteering.

Growing Places Fund

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish and place in the Library *(a)* the data sets, *(b)* the calculations and *(c)* the models for the formulae used to produce the allocations to local enterprise partnerships set out in pages 10 and 11 of the Growing Places Fund prospectus. [80597]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The indicative Growing Places Fund allocations to Local Enterprise Partnerships are based on a weighted distribution using district level data on population (in the final allocations 2010 data will be used but current indicative figures are based on 2009 data) and "employed earnings" (employment multiplied by earnings, which provides a partial measure of output) with both being given equal weighting.

The allocations reflect the size of the Local Enterprise Partnership and associated economic activity in the area. Rather than using a more time-consuming bidding process, the formula was drawn up to be as simple and transparent as possible, and to facilitate funding being allocated to the Local Enterprise Partnerships as quickly as possible—and thus help them deliver the key infrastructure needed to unlock developments, generate jobs and build more homes.

The relevant data and details of the calculations have been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the planning implications of the housing need represented by the *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower limits of the population projections by the Office for National Statistics for 2050. [81277]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not estimate housing need. However, the Department publishes household projections, which are a trend-based view of the number of households that would form given a projected population and previous demographic trends. Local authorities should use the projections as a part of the evidence base for assessing future housing demand.

Household projections are based on the Sub-national Population Projections published by the Office for National Statistics, the most recent of which are 2008-based. The 2008-based Household Projections show that, by 2033, there will be a projected 27.5 million households in England, an additional 5.8 million households compared to 2008. This decreases to 26.3 million projected households in 2033 using the low population variant projection (an additional 4.6 million households compared to 2008), and increases to 28.7 million projected households in 2033 using the high population variant projection (an additional 7 million households compared to 2008).

Local Government: Redundancy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of local authority employees in each salary band who have lost their jobs since May 2010 in each local authority. [81387]

Robert Neill: The Department does not collect detailed information on local government work force. It is for councils, as individual employers, to manage the structure of their work forces in light of their local circumstances and in a way that offers value for money for local taxpayers.

Local Government: Sustainable Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 will contain a duty on local authorities to reach agreement with their communities when submitting proposals to Government under the Act. [81187]

Greg Clark: We are currently considering the content of regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act, including whether they should include a duty on local authorities to consult and try to reach agreement with their communities on proposals, taking into account the results of the consultation which closed on 20 June 2011.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to include internal drainage boards and water utility companies as statutory consultees when assessing planning applications for onshore oil and gas exploration. [80936]

Robert Neill: The Department have no plans at present to amend the statutory consultation arrangements for planning applications, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010, to require consultation with drainage boards and water utility companies on planning applications for onshore oil and gas applications.

The Government expect local planning authorities to work with infrastructure providers from an early stage in the local plan process to ensure that they are actively involved in shaping its proposals. Drainage boards and utility companies may also wish to work with local authorities to identify individual planning applications where consultation with drainage boards and water utility companies would be beneficial.

Planning Permission

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will introduce measures to ensure residents of new developments cannot take action to close down long standing legitimate existing businesses in an area. [79326]

Greg Clark: The issues raised by this question encompass both planning policy and environmental health protections in respect of matters such as noise and emissions. It is important in considering proposals and locations for new development that any potential environmental health issues are considered and these risks are mitigated where appropriate. In planning for their areas, local authorities should aim to ensure that uses are compatible so that such conflicts do not arise. The draft National Planning Policy Framework recognises the importance of ensuring that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community. We are now carefully considering responses to the consultation.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the number of local authorities whose local development frameworks will need amendment following the publication of the draft National Planning Policy Framework; and whether he plans to publish transitional arrangements for such councils. [79353]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework aims to strengthen local decision making and reinforce the importance of local plans. We will therefore work closely with local authorities to ensure that appropriate transitional arrangements are in place before the new framework comes into force. Amending a local plan is a matter for each local authority and communities to decide locally.

Postcodes

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of his Department's inquiry into anomalous postcodes. [78484]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are not conducting any inquiries into postcodes.

Changes to postal addresses and postcodes are governed under a code of practice which has been subject to a number of consultations over the years. Royal Mail will consider making changes to postal addresses which do not materially impact on the efficiency of its operations or lead to a deterioration of the service it provides. More information about the code of practice can be found on Royal Mail's website:

www.royalmail.com

Property Development

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to empower local authorities who have identified a risk of unlawful occupation of land and gained an injunction against such occupation to *(a)* block the site entrance and *(b)* take other reasonable action to prevent such illegal occupation. [80498]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* A landowner (including a local authority) can already take action to block the entrance to their land.

The Government have also brought forward provisions in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to allow local authorities to attach the power of seizure to their byelaws, for encampments on local authority land. These provisions will be commenced shortly.

The Government are reviewing what further steps can be taken to increase local authority powers to tackle unauthorised development and occupation.

Rented Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of new homes to be made available under the Homes and Communities Agency's affordable rent scheme in the Peterborough City Council area from 2011 to 2014; and if he will make a statement. [79804]

Grant Shapps: In the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire area, providers that have so far agreed their final contract offers with the Homes and Communities Agency under the Affordable Homes Programme are expected to deliver 684 Affordable Rent homes and 213 Affordable Home Ownership homes from allocations totalling £12.6 million.

Details of the specific local authority areas in which homes to be delivered through the Affordable Homes Programme will be located are not yet available.

Rough Sleepers: Weather

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions his Department has made for emergency shelters for people sleeping rough in the event of a very cold winter. [81197]

Grant Shapps: The Department supports Homeless Link, the umbrella organisation for homelessness charities, to work with the voluntary sector and local authorities to provide advice on operating cold weather arrangements. Homeless Link published a good practice guide for local authorities and the voluntary sector on 9 September 2011 "Severe weather emergency protocol and extended cold weather provision". Usual practice is that severe weather emergency provision is triggered when the night time temperature is forecast to be zero degrees or below for three consecutive nights.

This Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness and protecting the vulnerable. We have maintained homelessness grant funding, investing £400 million over the next four years to support local authorities and the voluntary sector in their work to tackle and prevent homelessness.

For the first time ever, we have established a Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness which brings together eight Departments to tackle the complex causes—not only housing, but just as importantly health, work and training. In particular, the Group has pledged to roll out "No Second Night Out" nationally, the approach being taken by the Mayor of London to quickly identify new rough sleepers. We are providing an additional £20 million to Homeless Link for a new Homelessness Transitional fund to help deliver this national programme.

More recently, we announced £42.5 million for the Homelessness Change Programme which will provide in excess of 1,500 new and improved bed spaces to improve hostels for rough sleepers and ensure that those coming off the streets get the support they need.

WALES

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had any discussions with ministerial colleagues on dangerous dogs since May 2010. [80997]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales and I discuss a range of issues with Cabinet and ministerial colleagues. There has been official level discussions between the Wales Office, the Home Office and the Welsh Government about the Government's proposals to improve the tools for tackling anti-social behaviour, including dangerous dogs, which we outlined in our consultation published on 8 February 2011.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has received any correspondence on the effects of dangerous dogs in Wales. [80998]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has received no correspondence in relation to this issue.

Departmental Redundancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67530]

Mr David Jones: There have been no voluntary or compulsory redundancies in this period. However, the Wales Office has made contributions of £71,320 since that time towards the cost of voluntary exits.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Disease Control

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided in each of the last five years for research and development into prevention, treatment and diagnostics for diseases connected with poverty, including *(a)* HIV/AIDS, *(b)* tuberculosis and *(c)* malaria; and if he will make a statement. [R] [80260]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government have provided funding to a range of Product Development Partnerships working on technologies for the prevention, treatment and diagnostics of a number of diseases of poverty. There are now more products at all stages of development, for diseases of poverty, than at any time in history. For example there are three new drug combinations to treat malaria, with over 140 million doses distributed in Africa and Asia and five new diagnostic tests for TB and malaria.

UK Government funding provided:

	£ million per financial year				
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
(a) HIV and AIDS					
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative	6	6	6	10	8
International Partnership for Microbicides	2.5	2.5	2.5	7.5	3.5
(b) Tuberculosis					
Global Alliance for TB drug development	1.8	0.9	3.9	5.7	7.3
AERAS—TB Vaccine	—	—	—	4	5.5
Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics	—	—	—	0.6	0.2
(c) Malaria					
Medicines for Malaria Venture	4	2	2	2	13
Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.3	1.4
Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics	—	—	—	0.2	0.07
Institute of One World Health	—	—	—	0.7	1
In addition the Government also support a broader range of research into how best to deliver effective health services, including the strengthening of health systems and the delivery of new technologies, through a wide range of research programmes	2.1	2.6	4.3	6.3	6.2

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided for research and development of new vaccines for *(a)* HIV/AIDS, *(b)* tuberculosis and *(c)* malaria in each of the last five years; what assessment his Department has made of future vaccine-related research and development needs; and if he will make a statement. [R] [80261]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government have provided funding to a number of organisations for the development of new vaccines:

(a) To the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative for the development of HIV vaccines: £6 million in 2006-07, £6 million 2007-08, £6 million 2008-09, £10 million 2009-10 and £8 million 2010-11.

(b) To AERAS for the development of tuberculosis vaccines: £4 million 2009-10 and £5.5 million 2010-11

(c) The UK Government have not funded malaria vaccine research.

Significant investment in malaria vaccine research has been made by a number of groups, for example the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), who announced preliminary results about a potential malaria vaccine in October 2011. The UK Government are encouraged by the results and awaits the final results (to be published in 2014), so that we can understand how and in what circumstances a vaccine may be effectively delivered as part of a malaria prevention strategy for the world's poorest people.

Vaccine research has to be seen as a medium-term investment and the science changes rapidly. Many organisations keep this under review and it is an area of priority for some private foundations particularly the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The UK Government will make an assessment of future vaccine- related research and development needs during a planned open competition for funding in 2012.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department will continue to support *(a)* the Humanitarian Leadership Development Programme and *(b)* other initiatives that build humanitarian leadership. [81451]

Mr Duncan: The Government attach high priority to improving leadership in international humanitarian activities, as set out in its Humanitarian Policy "Saving Lives, Preventing Suffering and Building Resilience" (a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House). For example, we are working with the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter Agency Standing Committee to support a strengthening of leadership within the humanitarian sector at all levels.

Developing Countries: Roads

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to improve road safety in each developing country in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [81496]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) views road safety as being the primary responsibility for country governments and the multilateral development banks as major international funders of infrastructure. However, in response to the recent International Development Committee inquiry on DFID's role in building infrastructure in developing countries we are giving further consideration to the appropriate level of engagement by DFID on this issue.

Pakistan: Floods

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to people affected by flooding in Pakistan. [81019]

Mr Duncan: In August 2010, the UK launched its largest ever humanitarian response to help Pakistan recover from catastrophic flooding. The UK provided safe drinking water to over 2.6 million people; health support services to over 2.8 million people, and emergency food rations to over 400,000 women and children, among many other life-saving items.

In anticipation of further flooding this year, the UK prepositioned relief supplies, including 5,000 family tents, 10,000 tarpaulin sheets and 35,000 thermal blankets in 12 locations across Pakistan via the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), which are currently being distributed. UKaid also funded the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to supply shelter to over 37,000 families and supported the World Health Organisation (WHO) disease early warning system to help prevent health epidemics.

In response to the initial UN Rapid Response Plan, the UK provided further support to IOM to deliver emergency shelter and flood resistant new homes to more than 255,000 affected people in Sindh.

EDUCATION

Young People: Employment and Education

16. **Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of young people aged 16 to 19 who are not in employment, education or training. [81770]

Mr Hayes: The most recent annual data showed that 141,800 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment or training at the end of 2010. This was a reduction from 186,900 at the end of 2009.

Pupil Premium

19. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the change in average expenditure on schools in real terms per student following the introduction of the pupil premium. [81774]

Sarah Teather: Average funding per pupil for 2011-12 has been kept cash flat at £5,082 per pupil, plus the Pupil Premium. The Pupil Premium totals £625 million this year, rising to £2.5 billion in 2014-15. The Pupil Premium provides £488 for each free school meal child and looked after child. In addition, children of families in the armed services will attract £200.

Children's Centres

24. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of reductions in funding by local authorities on services provided through children's centres. [81779]

Sarah Teather: The Department has commissioned the Evaluation of Children's Centres in England to assess the impact of children's centres, particularly in reaching and supporting the most disadvantaged families.

We have kept statutory duties to provide sufficient children's centres to meet local need, and have refocused their core purpose on improving outcomes, particularly

for the most vulnerable. We are reflecting those priorities in statutory guidance and payment by results arrangements.

We will continue to evaluate the impact of children's centres and in particular the impact of policies such as payment by results and parenting support.

Academies: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effect of academies on education equalities in Halifax. [81762]

Mr Gibb: We believe that teachers and head teachers know best how to run schools. Academies give them the freedoms and flexibilities to help drive up standards, narrow the gap in educational attainment and ensure that all pupils are equally able to fulfil their full potential. The first academy in Halifax has been open for just over a year and is already reporting impressive results. We are confident that as the number of academies grows in Halifax as elsewhere that this success will continue.

Rural Schools Funding

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that small rural schools are not adversely affected by future pupil funding reviews. [81775]

Tim Loughton: The Government recognise the vital contribution made by rural schools to their communities. We believe that in many parts of the country the current funding system has not supported rural areas properly. Our recent consultation on reforming the funding system looked carefully at how small schools should be supported. We aim to consult on more detailed proposals in the spring.

Academies: School Meals

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* established and *(b)* new academies are being surveyed by the School Food Trust on their approach to meeting the nutritional standards expected of schools subject to the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) (England) Regulations 2006. [81138]

Mr Gibb: The School Food Trust will be undertaking a qualitative study to look at the approach taken by academies to providing healthy school food for their pupils in 12 academies in January and February 2012. Six of the academies will be established and six will be new academies opened after September 2010.

Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children left care and went to permanence *(a)* who were (i) under one, (ii) one to five, (iii) five to 10, (iv) 10 to 16 and (v) 16 and over and *(b)* by category of permanence in (A) 2009, (B) 2010 and (C) 2011 to date; and what the total increase was in those leaving care to permanence between 2010 and 2011. [78485]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is provided in Table A. 'Permanence' is defined as one of three scenarios: children who have ceased to be looked after due to adoption, the making of a special guardianship order, or residence order.

Children who ceased to be looked after by Adoption, Special Guardianship and Residence Order,[1,2,3] years ending 31 March 2009 to 2011, Coverage: England

Numbers

	Adoption			*Special Guardianship*			*Residence Order*			*Total[4]*		
	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
All children	3,330	3,200	3,050	1,240	1,290	1,740	930	1,010	1,180	5,490	5,500	5,970
Age on ceasing (years)												
Aged under 1	80	70	60	110	90	130	90	100	120	290	260	310
Aged 1 to 4	2,380	2,250	2,170	510	570	810	360	420	490	3,250	3,240	3,480
Aged 5 to 9	770	780	730	350	350	440	250	270	330	1,370	1,390	1,490
Aged 10 to 15	80	100	90	240	250	320	220	210	230	540	550	640
Aged 16 and over	10	10	x	20	20	40	10	10	10	40	50	50

Percentage increase from 2010 to 2011

	Adoption	*Special guardianship*	*Residence Order*	*Total[4]*
All children	-5	35	16	9
Age on ceasing (years)				
Aged under 1	-10	43	17	19
Aged 1 to 4	-3	42	18	7
Aged 5 to 9	-6	26	21	7
Aged 10 to 15	-7	30	8	15
Aged 16 and over	x	54	18	18

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, percentage have rounded to the whole number.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[3] x denotes figures which are not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
[4] Total of adoption, special guardianship and residence orders.
Source:
SSDA 903

Carers: Grandparents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in each local authority area were brought up by their grandparents in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [78671]

Tim Loughton: Information on children who were brought up by their grandparents is not collected centrally. However, information is available on children looked after by parents or other persons with parental responsibility (as defined in the Children Act 1989) and foster placements with relatives or friends at 31 March 2011. This is contained in table A3 which can be accessed via the Excel link 'England Summary Tables' in the Statistical First Release (Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011) published on 28 September 2011 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

A recent study on kinship care which highlights the number of children in England living with grandparents was recently published by Hadley Centre. This information can be accessed via this link:

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/projects/completed/2011/rj5314/finalkinship.pdf

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79076]

Sarah Teather: DfE's direct grant spend with civil society organisations, which includes charities, was £366 million for the financial year 2010-11 and £166 million between April 2011 and 31 October 2011. A number of those grants were awarded through our VCS Prospectus (announced on 25 February 2011) and figures for each funded organisation can be found in the press notice on the DfE website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/a0074906/voluntary-and-community-organisations-awarded-60-million-grant

The sector also receives money from DfE through a number of other routes, including funding through arm's length bodies, through the money we give to local authorities and from services commissioned from schools.

We are unable to provide information on funding to charitable organisations in earlier years as extracting and analysing that information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Children in Care

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many looked-after children there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [80983]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The number of looked after children in England as at 31 March 2011 was 65,620. This information is contained in the Statistical First Release (Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011) which was published on 28 September 2011 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

Information on the number of children looked after in each local authority for the years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011 is contained in table LAA1 and is shown in the following table. The information can also be accessed in the above Statistical First Release (via the Excel link "Local Authority summary tables" on the release's web page).

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1,2] years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011, Coverage: England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers[3]					Rates[4]				
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
England	59,970	59,360	60,890	64,410	65,520	55	54	55	58	59
North East	3,260	3,250	3,250	3,640	3,820	61	61	61	69	73
Darlington	140	135	130	145	185	63	61	59	66	86
Durham	410	410	435	500	520	40	40	43	49	52
Gateshead	305	290	290	300	365	77	74	75	78	95
Hartlepool	135	150	150	165	165	63	72	73	81	82
Middlesbrough	245	270	275	320	330	77	85	87	102	105
Newcastle Upon Tyne	470	455	460	525	525	90	87	89	101	101
North Tyneside	230	230	210	275	285	57	57	53	69	71
Northumberland	325	300	270	285	265	52	49	44	47	44
Redcar and Cleveland	140	140	140	155	150	46	46	47	54	53
South Tyneside	250	260	260	295	315	80	84	84	96	105
Stockton-On-Tees	185	225	235	285	295	44	53	55	67	69
Sunderland	415	390	395	390	410	71	67	68	69	73
North West	10,410	10,290	10,590	11,170	11,350	69	69	71	75	77
Blackburn with Darwen	295	305	320	365	365	76	79	83	95	96
Blackpool	265	280	325	375	395	88	93	109	128	136
Bolton	405	420	435	480	520	65	68	70	77	83
Bury	285	295	285	290	325	67	70	68	69	77

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1,2] years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011, Coverage: England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers[3]					Rates[4]				
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Cheshire[5]	540	565	655	n/a	n/a	37	39	45	n/a	n/a
Cheshire East[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	435	440	n/a	n/a	n/a	58	59
Cheshire West and Chester[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	325	345	n/a	n/a	n/a	48	51
Cumbria	470	480	450	510	505	46	48	45	52	53
Halton	160	150	160	145	125	57	54	57	54	47
Knowsley	295	305	305	295	285	81	87	87	87	85
Lancashire	1,295	1,275	1,255	1,285	1,295	51	51	50	52	53
Liverpool	860	845	860	920	940	96	96	99	108	111
Manchester	1,480	1,430	1,405	1,425	1,385	158	151	148	149	142
Oldham	390	340	325	345	335	71	62	59	63	61
Rochdale	325	350	405	430	455	65	70	82	87	93
Salford	570	530	490	495	580	122	115	105	106	123
Sefton	325	315	365	375	380	55	54	64	67	70
St Helens	320	315	325	355	345	81	81	84	93	91
Stockport	330	310	315	315	295	54	51	52	52	49
Tameside	330	310	330	350	375	68	64	68	73	78
Trafford	215	235	235	250	265	46	49	50	52	54
Warrington	185	200	245	265	245	43	46	57	61	57
Wigan	400	425	485	510	465	60	64	73	77	71
Wirral	670	610	625	630	680	97	89	92	93	102
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,540	6,530	6,720	7,060	7,300	59	59	61	64	66
Barnsley	255	255	260	245	245	53	53	54	50	51
Bradford	810	840	875	890	890	65	66	69	69	69
Calderdale	260	250	270	270	320	57	55	60	59	70
Doncaster	410	400	425	470	450	63	63	67	74	72
East Riding of Yorkshire	295	260	255	275	305	45	39	38	42	47
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	525	540	525	570	620	94	99	96	106	117
Kirklees	385	445	505	555	590	41	47	54	59	62
Leeds	1,355	1,360	1,335	1,420	1,450	88	89	88	93	95
North East Lincolnshire	155	150	150	155	145	43	41	43	44	43
North Lincolnshire	160	155	155	160	165	47	45	45	47	48
North Yorkshire	425	410	415	470	475	34	34	34	39	40
Rotherham	340	345	405	410	390	59	61	72	73	70
Sheffield	665	635	590	580	625	62	60	56	54	59
Wakefield	340	320	345	375	395	49	46	50	54	58
York	155	170	200	225	235	45	48	58	64	67
East Midlands	3,680	3,730	3,910	4,200	4,430	39	40	42	45	48
Derby	395	405	425	420	460	74	76	80	79	87
Derbyshire	500	545	550	630	660	31	34	35	40	42
Leicester	435	450	455	480	495	64	65	65	68	70
Leicestershire	330	310	325	325	350	25	23	24	25	27
Lincolnshire	525	530	540	525	490	37	38	39	38	35
Northamptonshire	565	555	645	700	735	37	36	42	46	48
Nottingham	465	475	475	520	520	83	85	85	93	92
Nottinghamshire	440	455	480	575	685	27	28	30	36	43
Rutland	20	15	20	30	35	24	15	19	32	37
West Midlands	7,310	7,370	7,630	8,010	8,180	61	61	64	67	68
Birmingham	2,100	2,095	2,095	2,025	1,900	84	83	83	80	75
Coventry	500	535	515	590	585	74	79	76	87	86
Dudley	470	510	545	610	610	70	76	82	93	93
Herefordshire	170	155	165	165	200	46	42	46	47	57
Sandwell	500	480	475	510	545	74	71	70	74	79
Shropshire	185	195	200	220	220	31	32	33	37	37
Solihull	320	340	405	410	400	70	74	88	91	90
Staffordshire	655	660	695	745	795	38	38	41	44	47
Stoke-On-Trent	440	415	395	405	410	85	81	76	78	80
Telford and Wrekin	230	230	250	270	270	60	61	66	71	71
Walsall	430	445	465	495	520	71	74	77	82	85
Warwickshire	455	485	540	585	635	41	43	48	53	57

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1,2] years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011, Coverage: England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers[3]					Rates[4]				
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Wolverhampton	370	350	365	405	495	70	66	69	77	94
Worcestershire	470	480	530	580	590	40	41	45	50	51
East of England	5,650	5,630	5,740	6,210	6,400	46	46	47	50	52
Bedfordshire[5]	310	260	275	n/a	n/a	34	29	30	n/a	n/a
Bedford Borough[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	165	165	n/a	n/a	n/a	46	46
Central Bedfordshire[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	160	175	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	31
Cambridgeshire	375	410	450	475	470	30	33	36	38	37
Essex	1,235	1,270	1,330	1,465	1,580	42	43	45	49	53
Hertfordshire	970	910	980	1,135	1,095	40	37	40	46	44
Luton	380	385	340	340	385	81	82	72	70	78
Norfolk	835	830	840	890	960	51	51	52	54	59
Peterborough	375	350	315	300	310	96	90	80	75	76
Southend-on-Sea	290	280	275	265	270	84	80	79	75	76
Suffolk	695	725	715	785	785	46	48	48	52	52
Thurrock	185	205	220	235	210	52	57	60	63	57
London	11,260	10,690	10,680	10,960	10,390	70	66	65	66	61
Inner London	5,360	4,920	4,760	4,910	4,600	91	83	80	81	75
Camden	345	275	270	265	275	89	72	69	67	69
City of London	25	10	15	15	10	269	133	132	159	93
Hackney	425	360	340	295	265	83	71	67	57	51
Hammersmith and Fulham	365	320	290	260	250	121	105	94	82	79
Haringey	445	425	490	590	615	91	88	101	121	125
Islington	365	330	305	315	325	109	99	92	94	94
Kensington and Chelsea	200	175	165	155	130	69	60	55	52	43
Lambeth	595	570	545	565	500	110	106	101	105	92
Lewisham	455	465	465	525	485	81	82	81	90	81
Newham	660	595	560	560	490	101	91	85	85	74
Southwark	615	570	530	555	520	114	104	97	100	94
Tower Hamlets	355	340	350	350	325	72	69	71	70	63
Wandsworth	250	235	230	205	205	54	50	47	41	40
Westminster	260	240	215	245	210	78	70	63	71	57
Outer London	5,890	5,770	5,920	6,050	5,780	57	56	56	57	54
Barking and Dagenham	345	340	385	375	410	78	75	83	78	83
Barnet	345	330	330	310	305	46	44	43	40	38
Bexley	205	210	215	220	215	40	41	42	43	41
Brent	405	365	360	370	385	72	66	64	65	66
Bromley	265	260	250	285	265	40	39	37	42	39
Croydon	990	1,045	1,070	1,005	845	125	132	134	125	104
Ealing	440	395	395	400	385	68	61	60	60	56
Enfield	290	255	260	280	305	43	38	38	40	42
Greenwich	525	515	530	595	590	101	99	101	112	109
Harrow	160	140	150	160	140	32	29	30	32	28
Havering	185	190	200	200	200	37	38	39	39	39
Hillingdon	500	475	450	425	385	86	82	76	71	63
Hounslow	340	335	340	355	345	70	68	69	71	67
Kingston Upon Thames	80	90	110	125	115	25	28	33	38	33
Merton	95	105	115	135	130	24	26	28	33	31
Redbridge	175	180	215	230	210	29	29	34	35	32
Richmond Upon Thames	85	95	90	95	90	22	24	22	24	22
Sutton	145	120	120	145	165	34	29	29	34	37
Waltham Forest	330	325	335	335	310	63	61	63	62	56
South East	7,310	7,360	7,660	8,150	8,480	41	41	42	45	46
Bracknell Forest	80	75	80	90	85	29	28	31	33	32
Brighton and Hove	400	370	395	465	485	88	81	85	99	103
Buckinghamshire	315	290	330	345	385	28	26	29	30	33
East Sussex	435	445	480	530	585	42	43	46	51	57
Hampshire	1,025	1,015	1,085	1,105	1,085	37	37	39	40	39
Isle Of Wight	200	200	195	180	175	73	73	72	68	67

Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March, by local authority[1,2] years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011, Coverage: England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers[3]					Rates[4]				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Kent	1,240	1,355	1,420	1,475	1,695	40	44	46	47	54
Medway Towns	340	330	310	350	425	57	55	52	60	73
Milton Keynes	215	210	225	260	270	39	38	40	45	46
Oxfordshire	410	405	410	450	430	30	30	30	33	31
Portsmouth	265	260	285	290	315	68	68	74	76	82
Reading	215	215	195	205	215	73	74	66	67	69
Slough	135	120	135	175	170	46	42	45	56	53
Southampton	295	270	290	375	385	70	63	67	86	89
Surrey	750	790	820	765	735	32	33	34	32	30
West Berkshire	115	115	95	125	125	33	32	27	34	34
West Sussex	735	755	750	785	750	45	46	45	48	45
Windsor and Maidenhead	85	75	90	105	105	26	22	27	32	31
Wokingham	65	70	65	80	70	19	19	19	22	20
South West	4,560	4,520	4,710	5,000	5,160	43	43	45	47	49
Bath and North East Somerset	130	130	120	140	160	38	38	35	41	47
Bournemouth	145	160	180	205	200	51	56	62	69	68
Bristol, City of	635	665	650	645	680	81	84	82	80	84
Cornwall	465	415	460	450	475	45	40	44	43	45
Devon	585	555	540	615	645	40	38	37	43	45
Dorset	255	280	265	275	275	31	35	33	34	34
Gloucestershire	400	390	465	490	485	32	31	38	40	39
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	160	175	195	225	230	38	41	46	53	53
Plymouth	390	370	380	435	375	77	74	76	87	76
Poole	110	105	115	120	135	38	37	41	42	47
Somerset	385	375	395	430	450	34	33	36	39	41
South Gloucestershire	170	170	180	185	210	30	31	32	33	38
Swindon	255	220	240	245	235	60	52	55	56	53
Torbay	185	175	180	180	220	71	67	70	71	86
Wiltshire	295	335	340	355	385	29	33	33	35	38

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[3] England and Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. See Technical Notes for more information on rounding.

[4] The rates per 10,000 children under 18 years have been derived using the mid-year population estimates for 2010 provided by the Office for National Statistics.

[5] In 2009, Cheshire local authority split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford and Central Bedfordshire.

Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Hyperactivity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effects of *(a)* attention deficit disorder and *(b)* hyperactivity on educational attainment among school pupils. [72129]

Sarah Teather: The Department has not made an assessment of the effects of attention deficit disorder or hyperactivity on educational attainment among school pupils. However, the recent Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability", sets out plans to improve the early identification of and support for pupils with special educational needs. Proposals include sharpening the focus on special educational needs within the standards for qualified teacher status and increasing the number of initial teacher training placements in special schools.

Maintaining and improving SEN skills through continual professional development (CPD) is equally a priority for the Government. The Training and Development Agency for Schools is currently developing online CPD materials for teachers on dyslexia; behavioural, emotional and social difficulties; and speech, language and communication needs. These build on the successful Inclusion Development programme materials which have helped teachers and other staff become more confident in identifying SEN and disabilities and responding appropriately.

Children: Mental Health

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the mental health of children; [79866]

(2) how many letters on child mental health he has received in the last six months. [79869]

Sarah Teather: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), regularly meets the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), in various forums to discuss a wide range of topics.

The Department for Education receives a large volume of letters across the breadth of its policy areas. The Department is unable to determine accurate figures without interrogating the entire correspondence system which would exceed the disproportionate costs threshold set for PQs.

Child Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that the forthcoming revised Working Together guidance enables professionals to have adequate time to undertake thorough assessments in cases of child neglect. [80911]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Government response to Professor Eileen Munro's final report into the review of Child Protection "A child-centred system" committed to a major revision of the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" and the "Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families" by July 2012.

Eight local authorities are currently trialling more flexible approaches to assessments that focus on timeliness and the quality of assessment, rather than being driven by prescriptive time scales. These more flexible approaches are intended to enable social workers to focus more closely on outcomes for vulnerable children and to complete robust assessments.

The trials are due to finish on 1 December.

Professor Munro stressed the importance of professionals making a proportionate assessment that delivers an accurate understanding of a child's needs and circumstances in order to inform effective planning and the delivery of early help services. Government are committed to building on these principles which are being tested by the trial local authorities, the results of which will be used to inform the revised Working Together guidance on assessment. Subject to this evidence, an interim amendment to "Working Together to Safeguard Children" will be made in December 2011.

The Government have committed to work in partnership with the sector to revise "Working Together to Safeguard Children" by July 2012. A full, formal consultation will commence from early 2012. A multi-disciplinary Professional Advisory Group has been convened and is advising on proposed revisions to the statutory guidance.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75635]

Tim Loughton: The Department has spent £29,192 on job advertising since May 2010.

Spend in 2009/10 was £72,611 and £166,737 in 2008/09.

Freedom of Information

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many responses to requests for information received by his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78874]

Tim Loughton: This information is available on the Ministry of Justice website. Quarterly and annual statistics on Freedom of Information requests can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

and copies are available in the House Libraries. Information for the third and fourth quarters of 2011 is not yet available.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78132]

Tim Loughton: In 2010/11, 2,551 staff received a pay rise covering the last year of a 2008/10 pay deal. The Department then entered a two-year pay freeze in 2011/12. 170 staff on full-time equivalent earnings of under £21,000 a year received a pay rise of £250 in 2011/12.

The average increase for 2010/11 was £1,404 and £250 for 2011/12.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [78140]

Tim Loughton: Information for non-consolidated performance payments made in the Department and its predecessor, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, since 2007 is set out in the following table:

	Department and predecessor Departments	*Average number of staff on payroll and eligible for a bonus*	*Total number of staff receiving bonus*
2011/12	Department for Education	2,950	651
2010/11	Department for Education (from 12 May 2010)	2,740	1,381
2009/10	Department for Children, Schools and Families (until 11 May 2010)	3,030	1,434
2008/09	Department for Children, Schools and Families	2,821	1,405
2007/08	Department for Education and Skills	2,900	1,235

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77612]

Tim Loughton: There have, to date, been no applications from employees of the Department for Education to run those services for which the Secretary of State is directly responsible.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to provide funding for students who were previously eligible for education maintenance allowance. [76481]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* From September 2011, the new 16-19 Bursary Fund will allow schools, colleges and training providers to target support to those young people facing the greatest financial barriers to participation. The most vulnerable young people are eligible for a bursary of £1,200 a year—more than they could have received under education maintenance allowance (EMA). Providers can then award bursaries on a discretionary basis to help meet the costs of transport, meals, books, equipment or any course-related costs.

We have also put in place transitional arrangements to ensure that the majority of students who received EMA in 2010/11 can continue to receive weekly payments through to the end of the 2011/12 academic year.

English Baccalaureate

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 44W, on English Baccalaureate, what his Department's commissioned research on the impact of the English Baccalaureate indicates its specific effect has been on the take-up of each subject not included in the scope of the English Baccalaureate. [81124]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The results of the Department's research were published on 31 August 2011. The research does not provide evidence which could be used to draw robust conclusions about the take-up of individual subjects not included in the scope of the English Baccalaureate. Schools were asked to indicate whether any subjects or courses had been withdrawn from the curriculum or failed to recruit enough pupils for the next academic year. Just under half (45%) of schools reported that one or more courses or subjects had been withdrawn. These schools were asked to detail the courses or subjects in question. Not all schools gave details; some that did said that these courses were under review and not necessarily being discontinued and some did not supply a complete list of the courses or subjects under consideration. As such, while the evidence indicates significant increases in take-up of English Baccalaureate subjects, it does not show the effect on take-up of individual subjects not included within its scope.

The research report can be viewed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RB150

Copies have also been placed in the House Libraries.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the English Baccalaureate on GCSE subject choices, including through review of GCSE entries in 2012.

Free School Meals

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of school pupils were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claimed free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [79229]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils[1, 2] known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, January 2011

	Maintained nursery, state-funded primary[3, 4], state-funded secondary[3, 5], special schools[6] and pupil referral units		
	Number on roll	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2011	6,803,755	1,227,110	18.0

[1] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations. In pupil referral units also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.
[2] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15 (age as at 31 August).
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[4] Includes primary academies.
[5] Includes city technology colleges and academies, including all through academies.
[6] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
School Census.

Information on the number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals as at January 2011 is published in table 3b of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

It is not known how many pupils are eligible for free school meals but do not claim.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children qualified for free school meals on the basis of their household being in receipt of child tax credit, having an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 and not being in receipt of income support, jobseekers allowance, employment and support allowance or the guarantee element of state pension credit in the latest period for which figures are available. [80933]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold information on the number of children who qualify for free school meals under each benefit. School census data from January 2011 show the number known to be eligible and claiming free school meals, under all criteria in maintained

nursery, state-funded primary, secondary and special schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision, is 1,267,605.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to publish the evaluation of the free school meal pilot projects in *(a)* Durham, *(b)* the London Borough of Newham and *(c)* Wolverhampton. [80934]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education expects to publish the evaluation of the free school meal pilot projects in the summer term of 2012.

Further Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the recommendations of the British Chambers of Commerce report Skills for business: more to learn, whether his Department plans to incorporate enterprise skills and employability in the main curriculum. [79060]

Mr Gibb: The core principle of Enterprise education is to ensure young people are well equipped to face the challenges of the world of work, employability and entrepreneurship, resulting in a positive outcome for pupils and employers. Increasing schools' autonomy and reducing unnecessary burdens on schools is central to our mission and as part of the growth review, we have been talking to employers about how the education and skills system can best contribute to economic growth.

Enterprise education is part of the economic well-being strand of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and schools incorporate and embed enterprise education across the wider curriculum.

In addition to this, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is developing online resources for teachers that will enable them to support students in setting up school businesses and access support from local enterprise champions.

Further Education: Disadvantaged

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to allow further education colleges access to his Department's free school meals eligibility checking service. [72979]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has worked closely with other Government Departments to develop a free school meals eligibility checking system (ECS). This has made it much easier for parents to apply for free school meals (FSM) and to reduce the stigma that can be associated with applying for them. The ECS enables local authorities to check data simultaneously from the Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in order to ascertain whether a parent qualifies for FSM and removes the need for paper proof of benefit. An increasing number of local authorities allow parents to apply online for FSM and receive immediate notification of their eligibility.

The ECS reduces the burdens on schools associated with FSM administration. It was introduced as a direct result of a Cabinet Office report that called for a reduction in the involvement of school staff in administering FSM. As a consequence, the use of the ECS is restricted to local authorities.

Free school meals are provided to eligible pupils aged up to 18 years in schools maintained by a local authority, as defined in the Education Act 1996. Pupils aged 19 or over are also eligible as long as their course of study began before attaining the age of 18. Pupils attending further education (FE) or sixth-form colleges are not eligible for free school meals. FE or sixth-form colleges wishing to access information on students' prior eligibility for free school meals would need to discuss appropriate arrangements with the relevant local authority.

Music: Education

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans his Department has to support the Sing Up programme in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; [80415]

(2) what assessment he has made of progress with his plan to develop a procurement strategy for musical instruments; [80416]

(3) what provision his Department has made for funding music education in each of the next four years; [80417]

(4) what steps he is taking to develop whole class ensemble teaching programmes in schools. [80418]

Mr Gibb *[holding answers 14 November 2011]:* We will shortly publish a National Plan for Music Education, which will reform the delivery and funding of music education. It will ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument, learn to sing, have opportunities to play in ensembles and have access to musical progression routes regardless of where they live and their family circumstances. The needs of the pupil will be at the heart of the plan, ensuring that all pupils have access to high quality music education.

Offences against Children

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps his Department is taking to provide information for parents on child sexual exploitation; [81252]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of local safeguarding children boards who are meeting their responsibilities under statutory guidance to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation; [81253]

(3) what joint work his Department is undertaking with the Home Office to tackle child sexual exploitation. [81254]

Tim Loughton: Child sexual exploitation is an appalling form of child abuse. The Department has been working closely with the Home Office and other Government Departments, and with a range of national and local organisations, to develop a national action plan to tackle it. I hope to publish that action plan shortly.

Child sexual exploitation can affect any family and can have a devastating impact. One key aim of the action plan will be to increase parents' awareness and understanding of the risks and what they can do to help protect their children. The action plan will also make it

clear that, when children do become victims, parents and carers have a vital role to play in supporting them and helping them to recover from their experiences and rebuild their lives.

The role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) is central to tackling child sexual exploitation but recent research by the University of Bedfordshire indicated that only a quarter of them are implementing the statutory guidance issued in 2009. The action plan will contain a clear message that every LSCB needs to treat child sexual exploitation as a priority and to assure itself that local services are based on a robust assessment of the local situation.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of the pupil premium to enable children from deprived backgrounds to experience and learn about the natural environment. [80434]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The pupil premium has been allocated to schools to boost the attainment of pupils from low income families. The Government believe it is for schools to decide how the premium is spent since they are best placed to know their pupils' needs and assess what support will help them achieve their full potential. Schools are therefore free to use the premium to offer opportunities for pupils to experience and learn about the natural environment where they feel this is appropriate.

Safety: Education

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department provides for child health and safety education schemes. [80371]

Mr Gibb: The Department has made £128,000 available to Safe Network, a consortium of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Children England, and the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). This grant will enable Safe Network to provide advice and assistance to voluntary and community sector organisations in England on safeguarding issues, and to help them address these issues locally. Within Safe Network, the CAPT has taken the lead on tackling childhood unintentional injury and accident prevention through this funding.

Schools

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to promote sustainable schools. [76904]

Tim Loughton: The Department believes that schools perform better when they take responsibility for their own improvement. Schools should make their own judgments on how to reflect sustainable development in their ethos, operations and curriculum. Those judgments should be based on sound knowledge and local needs.

Advice for schools on sustainable development is available on the Department for Education's website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/policiesandprocedures/a0070736/what-is-sustainable-development

We also work closely with the Sustainable Schools Alliance. They are working together to provide a clear and compelling offer of support available to all schools in the country.

Schools: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what new schools have been proposed for Bassetlaw through the Priority School Building Programme; and at what cost; [76155]

(2) how many schools in Bassetlaw with asbestos will not receive funding to deal with it under the Priority School Building Programme. [76156]

Mr Gibb *[holding answers 21 October 2011]:* No proposals for brand new schools for Bassetlaw have been submitted for the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP). However, there is an assumption that schools funded through PSPB would need to have at least 70% new build to be viable as privately financed projects—effectively defining them as 'new' schools. The schools in Bassetlaw listed as follows have been submitted for the programme .

Hallcroft Infant School
Tuxford Primary School
Dyscarr Primary School
Carr Hill Primary School
Sutton-cum-Lound CE Primary School
Kingston Park Primary School
St Swithun's CE Primary School
Misterton Primary School
Rampton Primary School

Cost information on projects is not yet available. This will be produced in consultation with the schools and local authorities as part of the outline business case development.

PSBP aims to address school buildings in the very worst condition. Asbestos containing materials that are maintained in good condition and in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations are not recommended for routine removal.

Schools: Community Relations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions he has intervened in the actions of individual schools in respect of implementation of the Prevent Strategy; how many such occasions have concerned *(a)* Islam, *(b)* other religions and *(c)* far right extremism; and if he will make a statement. [77055]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The Prevent Strategy sets out a programme of work for the Department for Education designed to ensure that children and young people do not come into contact with extremist views in schools or in out of school settings. The Prevent Strategy does not in itself confer powers of intervention in schools on the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove). His powers to intervene in schools are set out in relevant education legislation and, in the case of academies, in funding agreements. The Secretary of State for Education will exercise his powers

of intervention as appropriate whenever he has concerns that a school is not meeting, or may not meet, the regulatory requirements for any reason.

Schools: Religion

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether schools can apply for a determination to hold assemblies inclusive of all religions or beliefs in place of collective worship; and if he will make a statement. [76144]

Mr Gibb: Maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship which is broadly Christian. The legislation allows them to hold a daily act of collective worship that is appropriate to the age and backgrounds of their pupils and which may therefore refer to other religions as long as the main act of collective worship is broadly Christian. In addition, if they consider that broadly Christian provision would be inappropriate for their school population, they may apply for a determination to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to provide collective worship which is distinctive of a different faith, or worship that is inclusive of more than one faith. The law in this instance does not apply to academies, but all academies are bound by their funding agreements which require that academies provide for a daily act of collective worship which is broadly Christian in nature. Academies can also apply to the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), for a determination to lift the requirement for broadly Christian provision.

Schools: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of school children in years one to 11 participated in competitive sport in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [78418]

Tim Loughton: The annual PE and Sport Survey collected data on pupils' participation in PE and sport. While participation rates increased in areas targeted by the previous Government, the proportion of pupils playing competitive sport regularly remained disappointingly low. This is why we have introduced our new approach to promoting competitive school sport through the creation of the School games. Copies of the PE and Sport Survey for 2009/10 are in the House Libraries. The data relating to pupils' participation in competitive sport can be found in section 4.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to measure participation in school in *(a)* general school sports and games activities, *(b)* intra-school sports and *(c)* inter-school sports following the abolition of School Sports Partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [78421]

Tim Loughton: We have removed from schools the burden of having to fill in long, time-consuming and cumbersome sport survey returns, which was a requirement under the previous Government. Instead, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), will introduce a much lighter-touch system of measurement, focusing specifically on schools' participation in competitive sport as part of the School games. In addition, there will be an independent impact study of the School games which will sample trends in schools' participation. The details of these are currently being developed.

The take up of competitive school sport will also continue to be measured by Sport England's Taking Part survey.

Teachers: Pensions

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what formal valuation has been made of the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the last five years. [76937]

Mr Gibb: The latest valuation of the teachers' pension scheme was published in November 2006. This was the actuarial review of the scheme as at 31 March 2004.

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he last commissioned an actuarial evaluation of teachers' pensions; and when he proposes to next commission one. [79183]

Mr Gibb: The Government put valuations of the public service pension schemes on hold while the consultation on the discount rate used to calculate contribution rates was taking place. The outcome of the consultation was announced in Budget 2011, but valuations remain on hold. Valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and other factors. Many of these are currently under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms of the public sector pension schemes. A decision on when to undertake the next valuation of the teachers' pension scheme will be taken in due course. The last valuation of the teachers' pension scheme was published in November 2006. This was the actuarial review of the scheme as at 31 March 2004.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme are *(a)* part-time, *(b)* full-time, *(c)* male, *(d)* female, *(e)* active members and *(f)* deferred members/pensioners. [80500]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Figures from the Teachers' Pension Scheme Account 2010-11 show that the membership of the scheme is broken down as shown in the following table.

		Male		*Female*		*Full-time*		*Part-time*	
	Total	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Active members	658,351	195,530	29.7	462,821	70.3	470,063	71.4	188,288	28.6
Deferred members	426,496	126,348	29.6	300,148	70.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

		Male		Female		Full-time		Part-time	
	Total	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Pensions in payment	588,441	223,608	38	364,833	62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether a decision has been made on whether to exclude teachers at independent schools from eligibility to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [81396]

Mr Gibb: The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (IPSPC) made a recommendation about future access by non-public service workers to public service pension schemes.

The Government have accepted the commission's recommendations as a basis for consultation and the issue of private sector access to the public service schemes is one that is still to be determined. Consultation will take place before any decisions are made and that will include detailed discussions with representatives of all stakeholders including those in the independent schools sector.

Teachers: Qualifications

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the difference in teaching performance of teachers who graduated with first class honours degrees compared to those with a 2:1 or 2:2 degree. [80644]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* National and international evidence shows that teachers' level of prior education is directly linked to standards of attainment of their pupils. Analysis also shows that degree class is a good predictor of whether a trainee will complete their course and achieve qualified teacher status. The best performing countries draw their teachers from the highest achieving third of graduates.

Most graduate recruiters in England use degree class as part of assessing applicants for admission to training. Under the initial teacher training (ITT) requirements, all providers must ensure that entrants, as part of the provider's selection procedures, have taken part in an interview designed to assess their suitability to teach. Degree class is, of course, not the only approach to measuring an individual's potential to teach. ITT providers will continue to assess candidates against a full range of factors.

Teachers: Termination of Employment

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the reasons for teachers leaving *(a)* a school and *(b)* the teaching profession. [77993]

Mr Gibb: The School Workforce Census, run for the first time in November 2010, contained information on the destination of teachers whose contracts had ended; this is provided in the following table.

The data provided should be treated with a high degree of caution since schools were unable to provide destination information for 38% of teachers finishing contracts in this first collection of the census. We, therefore, recommend that the data be used as an illustration of trends rather than quoted in absolute terms for this first year of the data collection.

Reasons given for a teacher's contract ending during the 2009/10 academic year. Coverage: Head count of teachers in publicly funded schools in England

Description of destination	Number	Percentage
Remaining in the publicly funded schools sector		
Change of contract, (remaining in the same school)	19,640	16.0
Remaining in the same LA area—other (Including Central Staff[1])	2,150	1.8
Remaining in the same LA area—primary school	20,300	16.6
Remaining in the same LA area—secondary school	11,040	9.0
Move to another LA area—other (including central staff[1])	540	0.4
Move to another LA area—primary school	4,330	3.5
Move to another LA area—secondary school	4,570	3.7
Total	62,570	51.1
Other education sector employment		
University, FE/HE college in UK	230	0.2
Independent school	620	0.5
Sixth form college—same LA area	60	0.1
Education post outside UK	1,360	1.1
Sixth form college—other LA area	90	0.1
Total	2,370	1.9
Employment outside the education sector		
Non-education employment—other employment	430	0.3
Non-education employment—public sector	160	0.1
Non-education employment—self-employment	180	0.1
Total	770	0.6
Other		
Retirement—normal age	4,930	4.0
Retirement—ill health	470	0.4
Retirement—premature	2,980	2.4
Maternity/paternity/break for family reasons	1,400	1.1
Deceased	210	0.2
None	280	0.2
Total	10,270	8.4
Unknown destinations		
Other unspecified destination	12,690	10.4
Not known	30,110	24.6
No destination information supplied (missing)	3,690	3.0
Total	46,490	38.0

Reasons given for a teacher's contract ending during the 2009/10 academic year. Coverage: Head count of teachers in publicly funded schools in England

Description of destination	Number	Percentage
Total all contracts	122,460	100.0

[1] Central staff are those teachers employed directly by local authorities and are not attached.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Workforce Census

Teachers: Training

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of entrants to the teaching profession, starting in *(a)* maintained primary schools and *(b)* maintained secondary schools had previously undertaken (i) a Postgraduate Certificate of Education course, (ii) the Graduate Teacher Programme, (iii) a Bachelor of Education course, (iv) a BA/BSc with Qualified Teacher Status course, (v) the Teach First programme and (vi) another entry course or programme for each of the last 10 years. [77821]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the proportion of entrants in service by phase and initial teacher training route in March of each year from 2000 to 2009. The figures include teachers who had entered service after acquiring qualified teacher status, (QTS), through college based training and those who had entered service and were working towards QTS status on Employment Based Routes to QTS.

Proportion of newly qualified entrants in service in March of each year[1], by phase and initial teacher training route. Years: March 2000 to March 2009. Coverage: England

	Post Graduate Certificate of Education		Graduate Teachers Scheme		Batchelor of Education and other undergraduate courses leading to QTS status[2]	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
March						
2000	40	86	[5]	[5]	60	14
2001	46	87	[5]	[5]	54	13
2002	45	71	[5]	[5]	43	10
2003	45	71	[5]	[5]	41	8
2004	45	68	18	24	35	7
2005	47	67	17	21	30	6
2006	50	66	17	22	27	6
2007	47	64	17	22	28	6
2008	45	63	17	23	32	7
2009	45	62	16	24	33	7

	Teach First		Other employment based routes to QTS status[3,4]		Total	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
March						
2000	[5]	[5]	[6]	[6]	100	100
2001	[5]	[5]	[6]	[6]	100	100
2002	[5]	[5]	13	19	100	100
2003	[5]	[5]	14	21	100	100
2004	[5]	[5]	1	0	100	100
2005	[5]	[5]	7	6	100	100
2006	0	1	6	5	100	100
2007	0	2	8	6	100	100
2008	0	2	6	5	100	100
2009	0	3	5	4	100	100

[1] All teachers were in service in March of each year having qualified in the previous calendar year or had entered service and were on the Graduate Teacher Scheme, Teacher First or other employment based routes to QTS.
[2] Includes teachers on BA/BSc courses leading to QTS status. These cannot be separately identified within the data.
[3] Includes teachers on the Overseas Trained Teacher and Registered Teacher Programmes.
[4] For undergraduate employment based route to QTS the numbers in the first year of the course are counted.
[5] Not applicable.
[6] Not available.
Source:
DTR and TDA performance profiles.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision for the training of teachers who work in schools registered as special schools is placed for those going through initial teacher training. [80515]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* All teachers with qualified teacher status (QTS) should receive a specific element of training on special educational needs and disability (SEND) as part of their initial teacher training (ITT). The standards for the award of QTS set out what trainee teachers must know, understand and be able to do in both maintained schools and non-maintained special schools in which holders of QTS may teach. Trainees will be supported in addressing all the standards through taught sessions and guidance in schools, for example, working with SEN co-ordinators and reviewing statements of special needs with other teachers.

Teacher training providers may also choose to offer an additional specialism in SEN by offering training that takes place in a special school.

The Green Paper: "Support and Aspiration: A New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability" has made a number of commitments to improve the quality of the SEND training provision. This includes providing additional funding for initial teacher training providers to secure a greater number of placements for trainee teachers in special school settings.

There is no statutory requirement within ITT to prepare teachers for working in special schools.

Young People: Music

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with Arts Council England on steps to ensure that young people and children participate in live music making. [79833]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* We will shortly publish a National Plan for Music Education, which puts the needs of the pupil at the heart of a new delivery system. In preparing the plan, we consulted many music education stakeholders, including the Arts Council England.

The Government are fully committed to the provision of high quality music education and believe that every child should have opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument, learn to sing, have opportunities to play in ensembles and have access to musical progression routes regardless of where they live and their family circumstances. An important part of music education is for children to take part in performances from an early stage.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged between 16 and 19 years were not in education, employment or training in St Helens South and Whiston constituency in each of the last five years. [80961]

Tim Loughton: The official national estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. However, these data cannot be disaggregated to local authority or parliamentary constituency level because they are in part based on sample data for employment.

We can estimate the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET at a sub-national level using data collected by local authorities, but the figures are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

The figures for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NEET in each year between 2006/07 and 2010/11, for the Knowsley and St Helens local authorities, are shown in the following table.

Note:

Due to methodological differences, estimates for young people NEET based on local authority data tend to be lower than the official estimates for NEET in the SFR.

Number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET (actual age)

Average number and percentage NEET in the three months November to January

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	No	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*
Knowsley	687	13.7	695	15.0	651	14.4	437	10.6	432	11.4
St Helens	684	10.0	585	8.5	565	8.1	505	7.5	458	7.0

Note:
Figures for 19-year-olds are not available.
Source:
CCIS.

Youth Services

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on improving the capabilities of local authorities in commissioning young people's services in each of the last three years; and what proportion of local authority spending on young people's services was allocated to service providers other than local authorities themselves in each of the last three years. [79128]

Tim Loughton: In the three years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 the Commissioning Support programme, sponsored by the Department and the Department of Health, provided £7 million, £10 million and £6 million respectively to improve commissioning of services for children, young people and families across England. Information on the proportion spent specifically on commissioning young people's services was not collected separately.

Information collected from local authorities indicates that in 2008-09 and 2009-10 around 25% and 27% respectively of expenditure on services to children, young people and families was allocated to voluntary or private sector providers. Information on the proportion spent specifically on services to young people was not collected separately in these years. Financial returns showing outturn spend in 2010-11 will be published later this financial year.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities Act 2006

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to announce *(a)* his review of the Charities Act 2006 and *(b)* the objectives and process for this review; and if he will make a statement. [77513]

Mr Hurd: In line with the requirement in section 73 of the Charities Act 2006, Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts has been appointed to undertake the review of

the Charities Act 2006. The review will be independent and broad in scope, and I have arranged for a copy of the review terms of reference to be placed in the House Library. Lord Hodgson will set out in due course how charities and other interested parties can contribute to the review. The review is expected to report before the summer recess in 2012, and the report of the review will be laid before Parliament.

Charities: Trustees

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to enable trustees of charities who are prepared to act on a voluntary basis to replace professional trustees who charge for their services. [79014]

Mr Hurd: The overwhelming majority of charity trustees are unpaid and should be applauded for their voluntary work. In general, charity trustees can only be paid for acting as a trustee where it is specifically authorised by the charity's governing document, or by the Charity Commission or the court. Such arrangements are for the charity or its founders to justify, ensuring that they are in the best interests of the charity.

Where a charity's founder has established arrangements in the charity's governing document for it to be administered by paid trustees, provided the fees are reasonable for the work undertaken, the Charity Commission cannot intervene.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme earn up to £15,000 but have a full-time equivalent salary of more than £15,000. [81290]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* There are *(a)* 8,420 male and *(b)* 51,223 female active members of the PCSPS earning up to £15,000, but with a full-time equivalent salary of more than £15,000.

Ministers: Pensions

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any Minister who has resigned or lost their job due to misconduct has had their pension accrued while in office withheld since May 2010. [80732]

Mr Maude: Ministers are eligible to be members of the ministerial section of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF), which is a scheme made by the Minister for the civil service under schedule 6 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

The scheme contains no power to withhold pensions in cases of misconduct. Therefore no Minister, in this or previous administrations, has had their pension accrued in office withheld following their resignation or losing their job due to misconduct.

Pancreatic Cancer: Stockton-on-Tees

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many patients in the borough of Stockton *(a)* were diagnosed with and *(b)* died from pancreatic cancer in each of the last five years. [81386]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients in the borough of Stockton (a) were diagnosed with and (b) died from pancreatic cancer in each of the last 5 years. [81386]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2009. Please note that the number of pancreatic cases may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The latest figures for deaths are for the year 2010. It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death.

Table 1 provides the number of (a) newly diagnosed cases of pancreatic cancer from 2005 to 2009 and Table 2 provides the number of (b) deaths from pancreatic cancer for each year from 2005 to 2010, for Stockton on Tees unitary authority.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England and death registrations in England and Wales are available on the National Statistics website.

Cancer incidence:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/cancer-statistics-registrations--england--series-mb1-/no--40--2009/index.html

Death registrations:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27475

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of pancreatic cancer, persons, Stockton-on-Tees unitary authority, 2005-09[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Cancer registrations
	Incidence
2005	25
2006	23
2007	22
2008	29
2009	22

[1] Pancreatic cancer is coded as C25 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.
[3] Figures exclude non-residents.
[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where the underlying cause was pancreatic cancer, in Stockton-on-Tees unitary authority, 2005-10[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Persons
	Deaths
2005	23
2006	26
2007	27
2008	24
2009	24
2010	27

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C25.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.
[3] Figures exclude deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Unemployment: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Great Yarmouth were registered unemployed for two years or longer in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009, *(e)* 2010 and *(f)* 2011. [81506]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Great Yarmouth were registered unemployed for two years or longer (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008, (d) 2009, (e) 2010 and (f) 2011. (81506)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of people resident in Great Yarmouth who were unemployed for two years or longer are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of people who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for over 104 weeks resident in Great Yarmouth Parliamentary Constituency in September of each year from 2006 to 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people1 resident in Great Yarmouth constituency who were claiming jobseeker's allowance for over 104 weeks.

September	*Level*
2006	205
2007	165
2008	65
2009	40
2010	150
2011	150

[1] Computerised claims only. These account for approximately 99.7% of all claims.

Note:
Data rounded to nearest five.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

TRANSPORT

A14: Suffolk

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria have been set in respect of the information to be displayed on electronic information signs on the A14 in Suffolk; and whether *(a)* anti-littering messages and *(b)* other non-traffic public information will be displayed. [78201]

Mike Penning: Information displayed on the electronic information signs (known as variable message signs), including those on the A14 in Suffolk, must meet the criteria detailed in section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

A trial is currently under way on other selected sections of the strategic road network to trial three anti-littering messages and test their effectiveness before they are considered for wider use within England.

The Act does not allow electronic information signs to be used for non-traffic information.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* officials of her Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Mr Jon Moulton and (vi) Mr Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78655]

Norman Baker: There have been no meetings between the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), any Ministers in the Department or officials and Mr Michael Hintze, Mr Tony Buckingham, Mr Michael Davis, Mr Poju Zabludowicz, Jon Moulton and Stephen Crouch.

Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* she, *(b)* officials of her Department and *(c)* special advisers in her Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on her Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78854]

Norman Baker: There have been no meetings between the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), any officials in the Department or special advisers and Mr Adam Werritty within the specified time scale.

Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Air Travel Organisers' Licence

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with online travel agencies to discuss her Department's proposed reforms to the ATOL scheme. [81140]

Mrs Villiers: Over the past year Ministers and officials have held a number of meetings with individual travel agents and tour operators, many of whom conduct business online, to discuss the proposed reforms to the ATOL scheme. Ministers and officials have also met with industry organisations that represent tour operators and travel agents, including those that operate online.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the time required by travel agencies to implement ATOL scheme reforms; and how many agencies she estimates may be in breach when the reforms are introduced in 2012. [81177]

Mrs Villiers: Having listened to the concerns of the travel industry about the time required to prepare for the planned reforms to the ATOL scheme, I announced

on 25 October that the proposed new regulations would now come into force in April 2012 instead of on 1 January, as was originally proposed.

I made the change of implementation date to provide businesses with more time to make the necessary changes to their IT systems and other processes to comply with the regulations. This is aimed at ensuring that the reforms are implemented fully and consistently and in a way that minimises the scope for error and subsequent confusion among passengers. I expect to announce a final decision on the other aspects of the reforms shortly.

On 14 November the Civil Aviation Authority published more detailed information about how the ATOL reforms would work in practice, which should assist businesses with their preparations.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has conducted an assessment of the cost for online travel agencies of implementing her proposed reforms of the ATOL scheme. [81178]

Mrs Villiers: An impact assessment was published alongside the ATOL Reform consultation document.

A revised impact assessment will be published when a final decision on the reforms consulted on is announced shortly. This will incorporate relevant information from consultation responses about the cost of implementing the reforms for travel trade businesses, including those that operate online.

Aviation: Safety

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to tackle pilot fatigue. [79765]

Mrs Villiers: Under EU Regulation 3922/91 all airlines are required to have a flight and duty time limitation scheme designed to ensure that crew members remain sufficiently free from fatigue so that they can operate to a satisfactory level of safety in all circumstances.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is satisfied that the flight and duty time schemes of UK airlines protect against unsafe levels of fatigue. If concerns arise with an airline's scheme, this will be investigated as part of the CAA's oversight process.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to investigate cases where both pilots are simultaneously asleep while piloting aircraft. [79767]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has not received any reports of such events. If one were reported it would be investigated as part of the CAA's oversight process.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the British Airline Pilots Association on both pilots falling asleep at the same time while piloting an aircraft. [79768]

Mrs Villiers: None. The British Air Line Pilots' Association has not raised this issue in the Civil Aviation Authority's advisory group on flight time limitations. Nor did BALPA raise it at a recent meeting held with the CAA to discuss the draft rules on flight time limitations proposed by the European Aviation Safety Agency.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the Civil Aviation Authority's SAFE programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [80154]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The System for Aircrew Fatigue Evaluation was developed jointly by the Civil Aviation Authority and QinetiQ. The CAA's costs were funded through their normal charges on the airline industry.

Domestic Aviation

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the choice available to passengers of air services between *(a)* Edinburgh and *(b)* Aberdeen and Heathrow airport. [81210]

Mrs Villiers: Decisions about which air services operate between UK airports are commercial ones for airlines to determine. 15 return flights per day operate between Heathrow and Edinburgh airports, and 12 per day between Heathrow and Aberdeen airports.

Aviation: Security

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 186W, on aviation: security, what representations she has received from faith groups on the trial of alternative screening processes for religious headgear at airports. [81063]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Department for Transport has received representations from the Sikh Federation, the British Sikh Consultative Forum, the Sikh Council of the UK and the Network of Sikh Organisations as well as several individuals directly, requesting alternative screening processes for religious headgear at airports.

Aviation: Working Hours

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has made to the European Commission on proposed changes to pilot flight time limitations. [79766]

Mrs Villiers: None. The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has consulted on draft rules on flight time limitations. The Department and the CAA have responded to that consultation and are actively engaging with EASA in the review of the draft rules.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in her Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80046]

Norman Baker: The information requested is not readily available and to ascertain if any meetings have occurred between Ministers, officials and political advisers in the Department and representatives of Bell Pottinger Group would incur disproportionate costs. However, details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Bus Services: Concessions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department has allocated for concessionary bus passes for each year of the spending review period; and how much was allocated for such passes in each year since their introduction. [81255]

Norman Baker: Since April 2011 all funding for the statutory travel concession in England has been provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through Formula Grant. This block grant is unhypothecated so it is not possible to identify how much funding has been allocated to a local authority for a particular service such as concessionary travel.

Following the introduction of the England-wide statutory off-peak bus travel concession for older and disabled people in April 2008, the Department for Transport provided a portion of funding through a Special Grant to local authorities until 31 March 2011. The Special Grant funding was £212 million in 2008-09, £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Government's response to the Transport Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2010-12, Bus Services after the Spending Review, published with the Committee's Ninth Special Report of Session 2010-12, HC 1550, when her Department will publish the result of research with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to investigate the state of the rural community transport sector and how rural communities are responding positively to deliver innovative local community transport services. [81224]

Norman Baker: The Community Transport Association intends to publish their State of the Sector report in the middle of 2012. This will include additional details and analysis of the rural community transport sector prepared in co-operation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Buses: Exhaust Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many buses operated by local authorities outside London do not meet the Euro III emission standard for PM10. [80009]

Norman Baker: The Department does not hold information on the number of buses operated by local authorities outside London which do not meet the Euro III emission standard for PM10.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many London buses do not meet the Euro III emission standard for PM10. [80010]

Norman Baker: The Department does not hold information on how many London buses do not meet the Euro III emission standard for PM10.

Cycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to promote cycling proficiency in *(a)* children and *(b)* adults. [80831]

Norman Baker: This financial year, the Department has made £11 million of funding contributions available to local highways authorities and school games organiser host schools. This will enable up to 275,000 school children to access Bikeability cycle training in England, excluding London. (Cycle training in London is a matter for Transport for London and the London boroughs, although the Department does provide some funding to school games organiser host schools based in London.)

Bikeability may also be completed by adults. Further information, including links to training courses, is available on the Bikeability website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/bikeability/the-three-levels/cycling-skills-for-adults/

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assets with a value of £250,000 or more her Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if she will make a statement. [77325]

Norman Baker: The following tables detail a breakdown of (a) all new assets, and (b) asset enhancements, valued over £250,000 and bought by the Department for Transport since May 2010.

(a) Assets over £250,000 bought during the period 1 May 2010 to date

Entity	*Description*	*Purpose*	*Date originally capitalised*	*Value (£250,00 to £500,000)*	*Value (£500,000 to £1 million)*	*Value (>£1 million)*
DFTc	Transport Security IT database	Used by inspectors in the field to log information remotely, as well for work force planning purposes	31 July 2010	—	Yes	—

(a) Assets over £250,000 bought during the period 1 May 2010 to date

Entity	Description	Purpose	Date originally capitalised	Value (£250,00 to £500,000)	Value (£500,000 to £1 million)	Value (>£1 million)
Highways Agency	HA Salt Barn	A salt barn was constructed for winter maintenance of the strategic road network and placed in service in October 2010	1 October 2010	Yes	—	—
DVLA	Marathon Mail Inserting System	Processing DVLA's outgoing mail to its customers	1 July 2010	Yes	—	—
DVLA	Mailing Machines—Marathon 4	Processing DVLA's outgoing mail to its customers	1 September 2011	Yes	—	—
DVLA	Mailing Machines—Marathon 3	Processing DVLA's outgoing mail to its customers	1 September 2011	Yes	—	—
DVLA	Industrial Shredder—Waste management	Shredding the agency's waste paper	1 March 2011	Yes	—	—
DSA	IT Assets—Oracle Software	Upgrade and harmonisation of database software to common supported version	—	—	Yes	—
DSA	Building and developing new driving test centres	Increase the number of driving test centres available across the country	—	—	—	Yes
DSA	Refurbishment and upgrading to existing driving test centres	Ensure driving test centres are safe and fit for purpose	—	—	—	Yes
MCA	IT—Secured network connection	Improve the reliability and security of the agency's network connections	—	—	—	Yes

(b) Existing assets enhanced by £250,000 or over, or with a total value over £250,000 and brought into use, both during the period 1 May 2010 to date

Entity	Description	Purpose	Date asset originally capitalised	Date of enhancement to asset	Value (£250,00 to £500,000)	Value (£500,000 to £1 million)	Value (>£1 million)
DFTc	GMH Rationalisation and Refurbishment Project	Rationalisation of DFT's office estate, and associated refurbishment work	31 March 2009	May to August 2011	—	—	Yes
DFTc	Transport Direct website upgrades 2010-11	Development of the bespoke Special Journey Planner software utilised by the Transport Direct website	31 October 2008	5 August 2011	—	Yes	—
DFTc	Transport Direct website upgrades 2011-12	Further upgrades to the bespoke Special Journey Planner software utilised by the Transport Direct website	31 October 2008	5 August 2011	—	Yes	—
DFTc	MAIB office refurbishment	MAIB (Marine Accident Investigation Branch) moved offices to Mountbatten House requiring initial installation work	31 August 2010	22 November 2010	—	Yes	—
DFTc	Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) Hangar	Replacement of roof and doors of T-49 aircraft hangar	1 April 1954	February to March 2011	—	Yes	—

(b) Existing assets enhanced by £250,000 or over, or with a total value over £250,000 and brought into use, both during the period 1 May 2010 to date

Entity	Description	Purpose	Date asset originally capitalised	Date of enhancement to asset	Value (£250,00 to £500,000)	Value (£500,000 to £1 million)	Value (>£1 million)
DFTc	AAIB flight data recording software upgrade	Requisite upgrades to AAIB's bespoke flight data recording software	5 July 2000	March 2011	—	Yes	—
DFTc	AAIB office refurbishment	Refurbishment of T75 AAIB office building	1 April 1984	February to March 2011	Yes	—	—

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what applications for judicial review have been made against her Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed or (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by her Department for each such application; in each failed application whether she applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether her Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80704]

Norman Baker: During the last Parliament, ie May 2005 to April 2010, 96 new judicial review cases were opened against the Department and its seven executive agencies.

Since May 2010, a further 21 new cases have been opened.

To provide all of the information requested about the outcome and costs of those judicial review proceedings would, I regret, incur a disproportionate cost, because the records held on our behalf by the Treasury Solicitor's Department are not broken down in that manner.

However, the following information is readily available:

The total costs, including all fees, charges and disbursements, incurred on the 96 cases opened between May 2005 and April 2010 are £1,511,904.66 (including VAT) to date.

The total costs incurred on the 21 cases opened since May 2010 are £67,847.81 (including VAT) to date.

Please note that 46 of the above cases are still ongoing, and the above figures are therefore correct only up to 10 November 2011.

Please also note that the majority of the final litigation costs for the cases opened since May 2010 will not, in all probability, have been incurred as yet.

It is the normal policy for the Department to seek recovery of its costs where it is successful in litigation.

Data on adverse costs, i.e. costs awarded against the Department, are available only for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2010. The total amount awarded during this period was £668,597.00.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by her Department in the first six months of 2011. [78525]

Norman Baker: The Department and its seven executive agencies incur expenditure on a range of legal services each year. I regret that confirming expenditure across the Department and its agencies in full for the first six months of 2011 would incur a disproportionate cost. However the following information is readily available.

In the first six months of 2011-12, the total staff costs of the Department for Transport's own Legal Service were estimated to be £2,969,544[1], and the staff costs of the DVLA's in-house legal team were £89,909.

In the first six months of 2011-12, the Department for Transport's Legal Service spent £161,320 on Treasury Solicitor's Department fees, and £4,018 on external solicitors and counsel. A payment of £82,713 was made in respect of Parliamentary Counsel's fees covering the whole of 2011-12.

Legal costs of the Department's agencies in the first six months of 2011-12 were as follows:

Agency	Internal legal costs[2]	£ External legal costs[3]
Highways Agency	[4]942,193	
Vehicle Certification Agency	297	0
DVLA	186,255	264,003
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	36,693	152,887
Driving Standards Agency	121,190	84,255
Government Car and Despatch Agency	6,389	250

[1] Based on staff costs of September 2011, multiplied by six.
[2] These costs are Treasury Solicitor's Department fees.
[3] These costs are fees paid to external solicitors and barristers.
[4] The Highways Agency is not able to provide figures subdivided into internal and external costs.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in each of the last 12 months. [73659]

Norman Baker: There have been no events hosted by Ministers within the specified timescale which incurred expenditure on hospitality for the Department.

I would also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 565W, which details events hosted by the then the Secretary of State for Transport the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and the costs to the public purse, rather than to the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [72941]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport spent £7,694 on new furniture in the last year at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (Farnborough). This was for the replacement of office furniture which was over 16 years old, the furnishing of a small meeting room following a change of use, and the purchase of a non-standard chair for an employee following occupational health advice.

Information on spend by Department for Transport executive agencies is not centrally recorded and this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in her Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77329]

Norman Baker: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, details of keynote ministerial speeches are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/ministers/

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what level of security vetting is required for the post of *(a)* head of communications, *(b)* deputy head of communications and *(c)* head of press office in her Department; and if she will list each person who has held these posts since May 2010. [77925]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to the publicly available booklet HMG Personnel Security Controls, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/hmg-personnel-security-controls

This booklet describes the circumstances in which a post may require the holder to be the subject of national security vetting checks. It would not be appropriate to confirm which specific posts within a Department are the subject of vetting, as this could highlight who within a Department has access to sensitive material and be used for targeting purposes.

The names of the officers who have held the posts listed during the period requested are as follows:

Postholder	*Notes*
Director of Communication[1]	
Jeremy Mooney	Until 16 January 2011
Head of News	
Joanna Millington	Until 31 July 2011
Nick Court (temporary Press Office Senior Manager)	From 11 July 2011
Head of Ministerial and Corporate Communications	
Helen Mason	—
Head of External Communications	
Emma Stranack	—

[1] The Director of Communication post was ceased as part of the restructure of the Department.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by her Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79557]

Norman Baker: The number of questions remaining unanswered two months after their date of publication was *(a)* 48 for ordinary written answer, and *(b)* eight for named day answer.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Electric Vehicles: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government has paid out under the Plug-in Car Grant since its inception. [80007]

Norman Baker: At the end of September, claims for 786 vehicles had been received for the Plug-in Car Grant of £5,000, totalling £3,445,000. Motorists benefit from the grant at the point of purchase and it is later reclaimed by manufacturers from Government.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many grants the Government has made under the Plug-in Car Grant since its introduction. [80008]

Norman Baker: The Government have made 786 grants under the Plug-In Car Grant since its introduction in January 2011 up to the end of September. This figure is published on the DFT website and updated quarterly at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/olev/plug-in-car-grant/

Exhaust Emissions: EU Law

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of fuel treatment solutions as a means of meeting the new Euro 4 and Euro 5 emission standards. [79727]

Norman Baker: Although some fuel additives are capable of reducing the deterioration of an engine with respect to its emissions of air quality pollutants we are aware of none which would actually improve the performance of a vehicle meeting an earlier emissions stage sufficiently that it would meet a later one. There are, in addition, potential problems with respect to some additives, such as fuel-borne catalysts, since these can result in the production of emissions which, although not currently regulated as vehicle exhaust pollutants, may themselves be hazardous to health.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministers in the devolved Administrations on proposals to increase the national speed limit to 80 mph for motorways. [81226]

Mike Penning: Officials in the Department for Transport have been in contact with officials in the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly and the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland).

Public Sector: Co-operatives

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 134-35W, on the public sector, when she expects to have completed the framework for assessing applications for employee co-operatives; and if she will make a statement. [77509]

Norman Baker: Over the coming weeks we will be working closely with the Cabinet Office to test our current thinking and policy development, which will determine and finalise our next steps and timeframe.

Railways: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* consultants in connection with work on the (A) Great Western, (B) Essex Thameside, *(c)* Southeastern and (D) Transpennine Express rail franchises in the last 12 months. [81061]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The information is as follows.

(a) In the last 12 months the Department has spent the following amounts on solicitors (external) in connection with the franchises in the following table:

	Amount
(A) Great Western	£25,000 to £30,000
(B) Essex Thameside	0
(C) Southeastern	£40,000 to £45,000
(D) Transpennine Express	£78,500

(b) In the last 12 months the Department has spent the following amounts on consultants in connection with the franchises in the following table:

	Amount
(A) Great Western	£58,000 to £63,000
(B) Essex Thameside	0
(C) Southeastern	£220,000 to £225,000
(D) Transpennine Express	£27,525

These amounts exclude those that have been incurred for stand-alone projects that will have an impact on these franchises in future (eg the IEP and Crossrail programmes which will affect Great Western).

Rescue Services: Location

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will adopt the criterion of value for money as the basis for her decision on the location of the Maritime Operations Centre. [81306]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), announced on 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 606-08, that the Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) will be located in the Southampton/Portsmouth area. I can confirm the Government have no intention of revisiting this decision.

No specific location within this area has yet been announced. The decision on the specific location of the MOC will be based on both HM Coastguard operational and technical requirements as well as value for money for the UK taxpayer.

The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), will make an announcement on the location shortly.

Roads: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what level of de-icing salt stockholding is held by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Highways Agency and *(c)* the national strategic reserve; and what estimate she has made of the level of each such stockholding on 1 December 2011; [76668]

(2) what information her Department holds on how many occasions and on what dates the Salt Cell has met in 2011 to date. [76669]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* A recent survey carried out by the Department for Transport estimated that total salt stocks of over 2.5 million tonnes were held by local and national highway authorities in Great Britain at the end of September 2011. This includes strategic stocks. The breakdown is as follows:

	Tonnes[1] (Thousand)
English local highway authorities	1,047
Transport for London stockpile	27
English local sub-total	1,074
Highways Agency operational stock	282

	Tonnes[1] (Thousand)
Highways Agency strategic stockpile	120
Highways Agency sub-total	402
English national strategic stockpile	305
Total England	1,781
Total Wales	217
Total Scotland	518
Total Great Britain	2,516

[1] Rounded.

Comparable data for the same time last year are available only for England and Scotland. They show an increase in stocks of over 1 million tonnes since that time.

No estimates have been made of salt stock levels as of 1 December 2011 as these will depend on factors including future weather, salt utilisation and further orders from highway authorities. The Department for Transport has arrangements in place to periodically monitor salt stocks, so that we can identify risks early on and co-ordinate any further action as necessary.

"Salt Cell" was not initiated in winter 2010-11 as there was no need to advise salt suppliers on the prioritisation of their own deliveries. Instead, a Winter Road Salt Network Group, chaired by officials from the Department for Transport and involving the Highways Agency, Met Office, Cabinet Office, local government representatives, Welsh Assembly Government and Transport Scotland, met regularly during the 2010-11 winter season to monitor stocks and, where appropriate, advise on allocations from the national strategic stockpile to bolster resilience in parts of the country. Since the end of the last winter season, the group has met three times to discuss resilience preparations in advance of winter 2011-12.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which rolling stock contracts her Department has not yet awarded preferred bidder status; how many carriages each such contract requires; and what the value is of each such contract. [77677]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* There are no current rolling stock contracts for which my Department has not yet awarded preferred bidder status.

However, my Department is working closely with Transport for London (TfL), as co-sponsors of the Crossrail project, to support Crossrail Ltd in delivering Rail for London's procurement of rolling stock and depot for the future Crossrail service.

Around 600 new carriages will be provided as part of the contract. Notice of this procurement was published by Crossrail Ltd in the *Official Journal* of the European Union on 1 December 2010, and the Invitation to Negotiate documentation, which will set out in more detail the scope of services to be provided by bidders, is currently being developed by Crossrail Ltd.

The delivery profile and costs of the rolling stock are commercially confidential and subject to negotiation with bidders.

Traffic Management Act 2004

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to bring into force the provisions of part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. [79636]

Norman Baker: In December 2010, I wrote to 20 of the largest local authorities to gauge enthusiasm for implementation of part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. The replies received suggested that there was not a widespread appetite for the change—indeed, several authorities did not reply at all—and there remains insufficient evidence of the traffic management benefits it would deliver. We therefore have no current plans to implement the powers.

The Department's current focus is on supporting further take-up of existing civil enforcement powers relating to parking and bus lane contraventions.

Transport Sector Panel

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made on its plans to establish a Transport Sector Panel. [81478]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has established a Transport Sector Transparency Board that includes members from DFT, No. 10, Cabinet Office and the Open Data Community. It also invites relevant data owners depending on the area of transport that is being discussed. The Board met first in September and again in November.

Transport: Infrastructure

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on bringing forward spending on infrastructure for which her Department is responsible. [79692]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* I have regular discussions with my ministerial colleagues on departmental spending. There will be announcements in the next stage of the Growth Review on any specific plans for infrastructure.

Transport: Rural Areas

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps her Department is taking to ensure provision of a reliable rural public transport service; and if she will make a statement; [81032]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to maintain public transport provision for elderly people in rural areas who are affected by planned changes to the funding of local bus services. [81034]

Norman Baker: Outside London, the provision of bus and community transport services in rural areas, as in urban areas, is a matter for commercial operators and for local authorities.

However, the Government understand that buses are a lifeline for many people in rural areas. I recently provided £10 million of extra funding to local councils to help develop community transport in their areas. We are also providing £560 million over four years through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund to help local authorities to support economic growth and reduce carbon emissions.

Moreover, we have committed to protect the statutory entitlement for concessionary bus travel, ensuring that older people can maintain greater freedom and independence.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80043]

Chris Grayling: Conducting a full and exhaustive search for information concerning meetings between all Ministers, officials and political advisers of this Department and representatives of the Bell Pottinger Group and its subsidiaries over the last five years, could not be carried out other than at disproportionate costs.

However, since May 2010 none of the Ministers from this current administration had one to one meetings with representatives of the Bell Pottinger Group.

Information relating to meetings between external organisations and this Department's Ministers is published on a quarterly basis on the DWP website. The relevant web page address is as follows:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

Information for other officials' meetings is not held centrally.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the latest verified delivery plan agreed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Board with regard to the implementation of the Commission's major change programme to deliver a new statutory maintenance scheme by 2015. [80229]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan,

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will publish the latest verified delivery plan agreed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Board with regard to the implementation of the Commission's major change programme to deliver a new statutory maintenance scheme by 2015. [80229]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Delivery Plan 2011/12, published on the Commission's website on 11 July 2011, states the Government's commitment to introduce a new statutory child maintenance scheme in 2012 for those who cannot make a family-based arrangement. The full delivery plan is available at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/Delivery-plan-11-12.pdf

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the effectiveness of the Child Support Agency in pursuing court action for non-payment of child maintenance. [80311]

Maria Miller: The Child Support Agency (CSA) has a range of administrative enforcement options available. Where these options cannot be used the CSA will use its court based options to best effect in order to try and achieve a successful outcome. I have received representations from both stakeholder organisations and parents in relation to the effectiveness of pursuing this court action for non-payment of arrears of child support maintenance.

Although there are no data available on the numbers and types of representations in this area, anecdotally, representations received from parents with care are to the effect that the CSA should pursue the collection of child support arrears by every means available. Some parents with care express dissatisfaction that the CSA's actions through the courts have not achieved the level or speed of payment they desired and are requesting increased enforcement powers. However, it should be noted that the CSA receives a number of thank you letters from parents with care who have now received the sums of child support arrears due to them as a result of a proactive approach to debt enforcement.

Representations received from non-resident parents support the view that the CSA should not pursue the collection of their child support arrears through court action. Both parties make representations in respect of any outcomes resulting from court proceedings they have attended. Generally speaking an outcome in the non-resident parent's favour will not be to the satisfaction of the parent with care and vice-versa.

Organisations representing parents or the legal profession occasionally make representations relating to the CSA's actions in individual court cases and/or to issues of policy or practice that they believe these cases highlight. These representations can argue that the CSA has acted inappropriately in pursuing a case or should be more active in using the courts to pursue child maintenance arrears.

We will continue to review the Commission's success in the exercise of these enforcement powers, and the Government may opt to introduce further measures contained in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 (subject to a public consultation where appropriate) if it is deemed in the public interest to do so.

Consultants

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reports his Department has commissioned from *(a)* audit and *(b)* management consulting firms in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [79170]

Chris Grayling: Reports are a key deliverable for all consultancy and audit projects commissioned by the Department.

In 2008-09 the Department spent £72.8 million on Business Consultancy Services. This figure reduced to £40.13 million in 2009-10 and further reduced to £18.2 million in 2010-11. This represents a total reduction of 76% compared to 2008-09 spending levels which continue to fall. In the first six months of the current financial year the Department spent £3.13 million on Business Consultancy.

Crisis Loans

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for social fund crisis loans were received *(a)* by telephone, *(b)* in writing and *(c)* in person in the last 12 months. [80345]

Steve Webb: Information as to the way in which each application is made is not gathered. However, the majority of applications are made via the telephone.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against social fund crisis loan decisions were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* rejected in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [80349]

Steve Webb: Crisis loans are part of the discretionary social fund and there is no right of appeal.

A discretionary social fund applicant who is dissatisfied with a decision may apply to have the initial decision reviewed. First reviews are carried out by a reviewing officer in Jobcentre Plus. If the applicant is not happy with the outcome of the first review they can apply to the Independent Review Service for a review by a social fund inspector.

Figures for reviews are contained in annex 13 to the annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the social fund 2010-11. There were 107,230 applications for first review and 40,910 decisions were revised. The Independent Review Service reviewed 17,465 reviewing officer decisions, 8,983 of these decisions were confirmed and 8,482 were substituted.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the merits of extending eligibility for social fund crisis loans. [80356]

Steve Webb: Eligibility for crisis loans does not depend on receipt of benefits. Anyone who cannot meet their immediate short-term needs in an emergency or as a consequence of a disaster is eligible to apply. We do not see any reason to change these criteria.

From April 2013 new support to replace community care grants and general living expenses crisis loans will be introduced. It will be the responsibility of local authorities in England and devolved to the Scottish and Welsh Governments. Eligibility criteria for the new support will be a matter for the devolved Administrations and English local authorities.

Consultants

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on consultants in each month since June 2010. [79161]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows consultancy services spend information since June 2010.

Consultancy services are provided when objective advice relating to strategy, structure, management or operations outside the business-as-usual environment is required and in-house skills are not available. DWP (core Department and its agencies) pays for consultancy on a project basis usually on a fixed fee based on defined outcomes or deliverables. The consultancy supplier is responsible for providing appropriate resource. DWP does not employ consultants on a full-time staff equivalent basis.

Consultancy services monthly spend since 1 April 2009

	2009-10 (£)	*2010-11 (£)*	*2011-12 (£)*	*Percentage decrease since 1 April 2009*
April	5,116,522	3,009,995	1,022,519	—
May	2,764,609	1,074,052	549,839	—
June	3,588,520	3,933,487	926,465	—
July	5,138,426	2,285,015	319,617	—
August	2,786,329	2,168,864	54,462	—
September	2,963,172	1,174,591	259,593	—
Total	22,357,578	13,646,004	3,132,495	86% on current like for like basis
October	2,213,113	1,004,930	—	—
November	2,026,370	739,767	—	—
December	3,723,701	725,014	—	—
January	3,145,394	1,000,717	—	—
February	3,238,921	493,681	—	—
March	3,424,725	596,931	—	—

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80186]

Chris Grayling: No new contracts have been awarded by DWP since May 2010.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed or (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80720]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions dealt with 1,169 potential or actual judicial review cases in the last Parliament and has dealt with 351 such cases since May 2010. The Department does not keep a central record of the additional information requested. In order to be able to provide an answer to the questions it would be necessary to retrieve the majority of these files from our central storage facility which is located outside of London. Each individual file would then have to be interrogated to establish what information is held, and some of these cases will be of a considerable size. I would estimate that this would take at least several weeks to do and would therefore be at a disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has of the monetary value of his Department's planned efficiency savings in each *(a)* month and *(b)* business unit in the next two years. [79165]

Chris Grayling: The Department plans to realise substantial efficiency savings over the period of the spending review through measures that will deliver both savings and improved customer service, as well as focusing its resources on key reforms of the welfare system. These plans include a reduction in the size of the corporate centre by up to 40%, and measures to reduce the costs of benefits processing by 25% through streamlining and modernising frontline activities.

In March 2011, the Department initiated a Transformation Programme to deliver against these savings, including a redesign of the organisation and reductions in the number of staff against the SR baseline. The Department is on track to meet the budget allocation of £7.8 billion for 2011-12, a saving of £1.45 billion against the SR baseline and recession funding.

DWP is in the process of reviewing efficiency plans in the light of the organisational redesign. Annual updates on progress against planned efficiency savings will be published in the Delivery Plan at the start of each financial year.

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79551]

Chris Grayling: In common with other Government Departments, DWP measures performance on parliamentary questions in 'sitting days' to reflect the fact that it is not possible to answer questions when Parliament is in recess. Up to 31 October 2011, the number of ordinary written questions that remained unanswered after 40 sitting days, the approximate equivalent of two months, was 43 which represents 1.1% of the total number of ordinary written questions answered by the Department. No questions for written answer on a named day remained unanswered after 40 sitting days.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Disability

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with his Israeli counterpart on the development of policies to support disabled people in the workplace. [80556]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), has not met with his Israeli counterpart to discuss the development of policies to support disabled people in the workplace, nor are there any plans to do so in the near future.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* average and *(c)* maximum length of time was between (i) receipt of an appeal in respect of a decision on a claim for employment and support allowance and (ii) a final decision being given. [79181]

Chris Grayling: The average actual clearance time for Employment and Support Allowance Appeals from date of receipt in DWP to date of referral to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) is 35.16 days.

We are unable to provide a minimum or maximum length of time between DWP receiving an appeal and referring it to HMCTS. This is because the Management Information System Programme (MISP)[1] calculates the

average from all appeals received and referred in any given calendar month, and then produces the average figure only.

The average actual clearance time for employment and support allowance Appeals from date of receipt at HMCTS[2] to a final decision being made is 24.05 weeks.

Of these appeals 7% were cleared within a minimum of four weeks and 0.1% were more than two years old when cleared.

Sources:

[1] MISP 3 November 2011.

MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

[2] Statistics Team HMCTS 4 November 2011.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new employment and support allowance claims have been made in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK since the introduction of that allowance. [80388]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Employment and support allowance (ESA) on-flows—Each quarter November 2008 to February 2011

	Great Britain	*North East region*	*South Tyneside local authority*	*Jarrow parliamentary constituency*
2008				
November	54,150	3,280	240	110
2009				
February	141,320	9,130	620	290
May	160,740	10,210	730	360
August	164,910	10,440	790	370
November	159,600	10,490	760	360
2010				
February	154,960	10,380	750	360
May	165,370	10,510	720	340
August	166,520	10,140	680	310
November	163,980	10,080	670	290
2011				
February	158,610	9,840	690	320

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Figures will exclude some short-term flows not captured by the relevant scans.
3. Figures show the total number of spells on this benefit that commence within the quarter. A person may flow on and off the same benefit more than once during a quarter. Does not include flows where people move out of one area and into another while remaining on the benefit.
4. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
5. Figures are published on the Department's website at: http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/esa/tabtool_esa.html
6. Northern Ireland data are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the data are published at: http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research.htm

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment and support allowance claimants in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have completed a work capability assessment in the last 12 months. [80389]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows completed employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessments taking place between June 2010 and May 2011 (this is the latest 12-month period for which these figures are available). Information is unavailable for the Jarrow constituency and data for Great Britain are given in place of data for the United Kingdom as data for Northern Ireland are not available. The numbers provided have been rounded to the nearest hundred—as a result, figures may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 1: Completed assessments

	Initial assessment	*Repeat assessment*	*Total*
South Tyneside	1,900	500	2,400
North East	28,400	8,400	36,800
Great Britain	447,500	158,100	605,700

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in October 2011, and can be found here: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.
3. These figures do not include IB reassessment claims.
4. A small number of clerical assessments, where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data, are excluded from these figures.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will fall into poverty as a result of the time-limiting of contributory employment and support allowance. [80475]

Chris Grayling: The Department has not conducted a full assessment of the impacts on poverty of the proposal to time limit those receiving contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) in the work related activity group. However, indicative analysis suggests it will have no significant impact on relative child or pensioner poverty and an increase in relative working age poverty of up to a maximum of 100,000 people by 2015-16. This is based on the change in equivalised household incomes relative to 60% of the contemporary median equivalised household income.

The Department published an impact assessment for this proposal, available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf

This includes analysis which shows that although many of the people affected by time limiting are in the lowest income deciles, these will tend to be either fully, or partially compensated by income-related ESA; and those who will not be eligible for income-related benefits are typically in the middle or higher deciles.

Notes:

1. There is unavoidable uncertainty whenever estimating the effect of policy changes on poverty. Uncertainty arises because HBAI poverty statistics are based on survey data which only capture a sample of households from the population—this sampling introduces variability from year to year in statistics as the survey sample is redrawn and new people are interviewed.

2. Uncertainty also arises because estimated policy effects are dependent on modelling assumptions which may be imperfect.

3. Poverty statistics are based on analysis from the Department's Policy Simulation Model. They are routinely rounded to the nearest 100,000. This is a reflection of the degree of confidence we should have when examining and comparing these statistics across groups and over time.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who will lose their contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) in *(a)* April 2012 and *(b)* within the first year of the introduction of time-limiting of contributory ESA; and what plans the Government has to ensure that those who lose their ESA can obtain alternative means of support. [80476]

Chris Grayling: It is estimated that approximately 100,000 claimants will have their contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) benefit time limited in April 2012 as a result of the Government's proposals to limit receipt of contributory ESA to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group. In total, the average number of people affected in 2012-13 is around 200,000.

However, for those who leave contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, an anticipated 60% are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

The Department recognises the need to move people automatically from contributory ESA to income-related ESA if they have entitlement to this benefit and we are currently working on the process to implement this. This process will allow us to make an assessment for income-related ESA, and register this entitlement before the change is implemented. This will allow claimants to move automatically to income-related benefit when their contribution-based benefit ends. The Department also has plans to advise those claimants who will become entitled to income-related ESA as a result of their contributory ESA ending to make a new claim. Safeguards will be in place to support the most vulnerable through this process.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of benefits for those in the work related activity group of the contribution based employment and support allowance who will *(a)* have experienced a gap in provision of support prior to the introduction of the new Work programme, *(b)* have had the 12 month rule applied retrospectively and *(c)* have been in receipt of this benefit for the 12 months prior to April 2012. [81319]

Chris Grayling: No direct assessment is made of the adequacy of benefits. However, the information that is available on the impact of time limiting is contained in the impact assessment, which can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf

The Work programme is now in place. Most employment and support allowance (ESA) recipients will have the option of accessing the Work programme at any point after their initial work capability assessment. Credits only claimants—those who do not get any benefit, but get national insurance credits to protect their pension once their benefit has expired—will be able to access the Work programme on a voluntary basis.

The time limit is not being applied retrospectively. The amendments proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill are changing the conditions of entitlement for the future. Entitlement will not end until after the relevant provisions in the Bill are commenced. This will not affect any entitlement which has already arisen. The provisions do not seek to recover past ESA payments, rather they are defining future entitlement on the basis of whether, at the time the clause is commenced, they have been in receipt of contributory ESA in the work related activity group, and if so, for how long.

Employment and Support Allowance: HIV Infection

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with HIV have been assessed for employment and support allowance *(a)* following a new claim and *(b)* as part of the migration from incapacity benefit. [79880]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Since the introduction of employment and support allowance (ESA) in October 2008 to May 2011 (the latest data available) there have been 1,100 initial assessments completed where the primary condition was recorded as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

(b) Statistics on the number of assessments for ESA as part of the incapacity benefit reassessment process are currently unavailable. Therefore we are unable to provide the information requested.

Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process but only once they have been quality assured and are considered robust.

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with HIV are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance. [80030]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants with a diagnosis of HIV—February 2011

	IB/SDA	ESA
Unspecified HIV	3,900	860

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. To qualify for incapacity benefit, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment. Under the employment and support allowance (ESA) regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit (IB) recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to IB or ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of mental and behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.
3. The figures represent those cases where the main disabling condition of the person claiming is 'Unspecified HIV'.
4. 'Unspecified HIV' includes the diagnoses of Aids, HIV Infection and HIV Positive.
5. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.
6. Data include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
7. Great Britain total includes a small number of cases resident abroad.

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training on HIV awareness is provided to *(a)* DWP staff deciding on claims for employment and support allowance, *(b)* Atos healthcare professionals conducting work capability assessments and *(c)* Jobcentre Plus staff. [80031]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) trains its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and claimants and to respect their individual needs. This approach ensures that our employees are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances while treating everyone as an individual.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus focuses on raising awareness of the claimants' personal circumstances and also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways and will change over time.

(a) Employment and support allowance (ESA) staff have intranet access to the Customer Case Management System which provides an overview of medical conditions including HIV and AIDS. Learning for ESA decision makers, also attended by ATOS Health Care Professionals, refers these decision makers to this site to raise their awareness of a number of health conditions. Staff deciding on claims for ESA are also trained to seek help from an ATOS Health Care Professional if they require specific information regarding the effects of a health condition on the individual.

(b) ATOS Healthcare's new entrant training includes a module on HIV and AIDS and there is a learning set on the subject available to all health care professionals as part of ATOS' Continuing Medical Education programme.

(c) All Jobcentre Plus staff receive foundation learning which covers excellent customer service, diversity and customer needs. These deal with the wide range of circumstances that our claimants may have, some less obvious than others, and stress how important it is to look for signs where the claimant does not give us this information directly and to offer appropriate support.

All our front-facing staff are equipped to help the claimant focus on what they can do in the world of work and where necessary, to signpost them to where they can get specialist help to reflect particular conditions. Part of this specialist help can come from our Disability Employment Advisers who have extensive and specialist learning in addition to the detail provided above.

In addition an event called 'Raising the Game', aimed at elevated awareness of disability and perceptions of disabled people, includes information on HIV and AIDS. This is a national event designed for front-facing staff including their managers. All Jobcentre Plus staff have access to information about HIV through guidance on our Intranet.

Employment Schemes

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his contribution of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 4, how many people have been placed in work through *(a)* work clubs, *(b)* work experience, *(c)* apprenticeship offers, *(d)* sector-based work academies, *(e)* the innovation fund, *(f)* European social fund support, *(g)* the skills offer, *(h)* the access to apprenticeships programme, *(i)* Work Together, *(j)* the work programme, *(k)* work choice and *(l)* mandatory work activity. [79178]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Work clubs

Work clubs are designed and delivered locally with some support from Jobcentre Plus. We do not set specific expectations or targets for the number of work clubs, allowing them instead to grow organically in communities, making the best use of local energy, expertise and resources. The data requested are therefore not available.

(b) Work experience

From January 2011 to August 2011, 16,360 claimants have started a Get Britain Working Work Experience placement.

The latest quarterly official statistics relating to Get Britain Working Work Experience, including demographic breakdowns, can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/pwp/index.php?page=pwp

(c)h) Apprenticeship offers /the access to apprenticeships programme

There were 279,700 apprenticeship starts[1] in England in the 2009-10 academic year; the latest year for which final data are available. Final data on apprenticeship starts in England for the academic year 2010-11 will be available from January 2012. The latest provisional data show 442,700[2] apprenticeship starts in 2010-11. Information on the number of people placed in work through apprenticeship offers and the Access to Apprenticeship programme is not available.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

(d) Sector-based work academies

Information on the number of people placed in work through sector-based work academies is not available. Jobcentre Plus districts will be tracking benefit claimants who participate in sector-based work academies but there is no national requirement for districts to record and report job outcomes achieved.

(e) The Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund was announced on 12 May 2011 and will support disadvantaged young people and those at risk of disadvantage, aged 14 years and over. This project is in the commissioning stages and will begin delivery in early 2012; therefore no young people have been placed into work at this point.

(f) European Social Fund support

European Social Fund support has achieved 75,671 job outcomes from July 2008 to October 2011[3].

(g) The skills offer

Information on the number of people placed in work following the new skills offer, introduced from 1 August, is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions is working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to see how data collected by both Departments can be used to produce meaningful statistics on the effectiveness of work-related training.

(i) Work Together

Work Together is available on a voluntary basis to all unemployed claimants. We do not set specific expectations or targets; therefore the data requested are not available.

(j) Work programme

The Work programme was launched in June 2011, to deliver sustained employment that can change people's lives; providers have longer than ever before to make a difference.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity and we are aiming to publish referrals and attachments from spring 2012 and job outcomes from autumn 2012.

(k) Work Choice

DWP will be publishing information on Work Choice from spring 2012 and as a minimum we will be seeking to publish referrals, starts and job outcome data to contract level.

(l) Mandatory work activity

The first official statistics on mandatory work activity will be published in February 2012 to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

[1] Apprenticeships include those who are currently employed who are starting an apprenticeship as well as new apprenticeship vacancies, i.e. a potential job outcome. Information on the split between the two is not currently available.

[2] It is not possible to directly compare provisional 2010-11 estimates with figures for previous years as not all providers will have made their performance returns yet. Therefore it is assumed that estimates may change significantly.

[3] These figures only relate to the DWP Co-Financing Organisation.

Fuel Poverty

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the Government's welfare reforms on the number of households in fuel poverty. [80015]

Chris Grayling: My Department has not made an assessment specifically of the effects of the welfare reforms on fuel poverty. However, full impact assessments have been conducted in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and kept up to date. These are available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/impact-assessments-and-equality/

As set out in the relevant impact assessment, universal credit will reduce the number of individuals in poverty.

Greater simplicity will lead to a substantial increase in the take-up of currently unclaimed benefits, with most of the impact being at the lower end of the income distribution. The changes to entitlement are estimated to increase average weekly net income in the bottom two income deciles by £3 and £4 per week respectively. After accounting for imperfect take-up in the current system and improved take-up under universal credit, the gain for the bottom two deciles increases to £11 and £10 per week respectively. On reasonable assumptions, the combined impact of take-up and entitlements will lift around 900,000 individuals out of poverty, including more than 350,000 children and around 550,000 working-age adults. These poverty impacts exclude the positive impacts of more people moving into work.

Funeral Payments

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent pursuing the recovery of funeral payments on which the deceased's estate defaulted over the last five years. [80352]

Steve Webb: We do not separately record the administrative cost of pursuing the recovery of funeral payments.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the case for extending eligibility for funeral payments. [80360]

Steve Webb: Future eligibility of the funeral payment scheme will be reviewed in light of the Social Security Advisory Committee's review of passported benefits which is currently under way and prior to the implementation of universal credit.

Housing Benefit

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in St Helens South and Whiston constituency were in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance in each of the last five years. [80957]

Steve Webb: Although housing benefit statistics are not routinely reported at parliamentary constituency level, the Department has published such breakdowns for January 2011. The publication, which did not present local housing allowance caseloads separately, showed an overall housing benefit caseload of 10,270 for St Helens and Whiston parliamentary constituency.

Housing benefit statistics at local authority level are available online:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/index.php?page=hbctb_arc

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people resident in St Helens South and Whiston constituency claimed the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit in 2010-11; and how many such people he estimates will be affected by the extension of the age threshold to 35. [80958]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Estimates of the number of people in each local authority who (i) claimed the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit in March 2010 and (ii) will be affected by the increase in the shared accommodation rate age threshold, can be found in the equality impact assessment available on the DWP website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional provision he will make for parents with part-custody rights who will be affected by the extension of shared accommodation rate of local housing allowance to those aged 25 to 34 years to fund accommodation suitable for looking after children; and if he will make a statement. [81153]

Steve Webb: Having considered this situation carefully we have no plans to introduce any further exemptions from the shared accommodation rate beyond those already announced for certain claimants moving on from specialist homeless hostels and a small group of ex-offenders most likely to present a risk of causing serious harm to the public. However, further financial assistance is available from local authorities through discretionary housing payments when they consider that additional help with housing costs is needed.

Housing Benefit: Universal Credit

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he has made on his plans for the administration of local housing allowance payments within the universal credit; what his policy is on the ability of landlords to reclaim arrears if direct payments are not made to them by tenants; and if he will make a statement. [81188]

Steve Webb: An appropriate amount will be added to the UC award to help meet the costs of rent for tenants in the private sector. This 'housing element' for private tenants will be based on the local housing allowance approach.

The Government are working closely with the housing sector, tenant representative groups, and local government to inform the design of universal credit.

Incapacity Benefit

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the north-east economy of his planned changes to incapacity benefit in each of the next five years. [81021]

Chris Grayling: No such assessment has been made.

Industrial Health and Safety: Farms

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to promote health and safety on farms. [80906]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) actively promotes health and safety on farms through a programme of farming Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) in England, Scotland and Wales. SHADs are half day training events based on practical demonstrations of everyday hazards faced by farmers, farming families and workers. The events target family farmers, the self employed and those employing up to four people.

Formally, HSE promotes health and safety in the industry through the work of its Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee. This committee provides a mechanism for bringing together and consulting with the industry and for helping to set priorities to promote the attitudinal and cultural changes required if there is to be sustainable improvement in the industry's health and safety performance.

Additionally over the past 12 to 15 months, HSE has been working in partnership with the key industry stakeholders and, among other things, is supporting the Farm Industry Safety Partnerships led by the National Farmers Union (NFU) and the similar group in Wales led by NFU Cymru. These partnerships are actively developing a range of activities and initiatives to promote health and safety through their respective memberships.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology his Department used to determine the level of jobseeker's allowance. [80866]

Chris Grayling: There is no actual formula used to calculate benefit rates, instead benefits such as jobseeker's allowance are made up of main components, the rates of which are fixed by Parliament each April, and are generally uprated annually in line with inflation.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 316W, on jobseeker's allowance, whether his Department has revised its projection of the *(a)* jobseeker's allowance claimant count, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance claimant count aged 16 to 24 and *(c)* average weekly jobseeker's allowance payment in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [81180]

Chris Grayling: There have been no revisions to jobseeker's allowance projections since Budget 2011. The Department's projections are aligned to the independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts which are publicly available.

Pensions: Females

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in St Helens South and Whiston constituency he estimates will be affected by planned changes to the state pension age. [80960]

Steve Webb: The requested information is available in the document "Women affected by State Pension age changes in Pensions Act 2011 by Parliamentary Constituency". This is available in the House of Commons Library.

Social Security Benefits

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the Social Security Advisory Committee's report of its review of passported benefits when it is presented in January 2012; and if he will make a statement. [81075]

Chris Grayling: The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has been commissioned to carry out an independent review of passported benefits on behalf of the Government. This review is still taking place and the Committee has been asked to report by the end of January 2012. The Department will publish the final report alongside our response by the end of April.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to modify the right to reside test in light of the European Commission's Reasoned Opinion relating to benefit claimants. [81686]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is considering all the details of the European Commission's Reasoned Opinion against the right to reside test and is committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure the UK retains control of its welfare policies.

The Government accept their responsibility in supporting EU citizens who work here and pay their taxes, but it is clearly completely unacceptable that we should be asked to open our welfare system to people who have never worked or contributed in the United Kingdom and have no intention of doing so.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury of 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on social security benefits: EU nationals, for what reason benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits. [80626]

Chris Grayling: For contributory benefits, the Department's benefit payment systems do not record nationality because it is not a qualifying factor for receiving the benefit. This is because eligibility is solely determined by the national insurance contributions that the claimant has made.

For all other benefits administered by the Department, residency conditions apply, hence nationality does need to be checked to ensure that the claimant is lawfully resident in the country. Therefore, for these benefits, nationality is established as part of the claims process, but since it is not required for further processing the claim, it is not recorded on our benefit payment systems.

I have commissioned work to release information regarding the nationality of benefits claimants at the point of registration for a national insurance number. I hope to make these preliminary statistics available shortly. In addition, I have asked my officials to look into ways of capturing nationality information at source.

Social Services: Dementia

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision his Department makes for people with dementia who are unable to meet dementia service charges in cases where a local authority does not meet the full cost of care. [81458]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

People with less than £23,250 can apply for financial help from social services with the cost of care in a care home. Local authorities assess a person's ability to contribute towards the cost of residential care using the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992. "The Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide" provides guidance on how to interpret the regulations.

For non-residential social care services, such as home care, it is for individual local authorities to decide whether to charge. The legal basis—as set out in Section 17 of the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983—is that no one should be asked to pay more than they reasonably can.

The Department issued statutory guidance to local authorities—the "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services". This is intended to ensure that, where local authorities charge, this will be based on fair and well designed policies. The guidance is intended to protect service users on low incomes, ensure that any charges levied on disability benefits are subject to an assessment of disability costs, and to ensure charges are reasonable. As a minimum, service users' net incomes should not be reduced below basic levels of income support or the guarantee credit of pension credit, plus a buffer of 25%, as a result of charging. Local authorities are free to be more generous if they wish.

SSAC

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the resignation of the Chair of the SSAC; if he will make a statement. [79171]

Chris Grayling: Deep Sagar resigned as Chair of the Social Security Advisory Committee on 11 October 2011. Paul Gray CB has been appointed as interim Chair (with the agreement of the Commissioner for Public Appointments) pending an open recruitment exercise for a new Chair. The role of Chair of the Social Security Advisory Committee is subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by the Work and Pensions Select Committee who have written to the Department in connection with this.

The Department has not received any other representations on this matter.

Stationery

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* postage, *(b)* stationery and *(c)* telephones in each month since June 2010. [79164]

Chris Grayling: Between the period June 2010 to September 2011, my Department has spent £67.4 million on postage and £9.18 million on stationery.

The monthly breakdown for postage and stationery spend is as follows:

		£ million
	(a) Postal	*(b) Stationery*
2010		
June	4.6	0.96
July	4.2	0.95
August	3.4	0.73
September	4.7	0.68
October	3.7	0.53
November	3.5	0.51
December	5.6	0.48
2011		
January	6.0	0.43
February	3.6	0.05
March	5.2	1.51
April	4.8	0.45
May	3.6	0.44

	£ million	
	(a) Postal	(b) Stationery
June	3.9	0.38
July	3.5	0.34
August	3.4	0.33
September	3.5	0.41
Total	67.2	9.18

For comparison, the expenditure between June 2009 and September 2010 on postage was £75.4 million and on stationery was £21.5 million. The differences in monthly expenditure are because postage and stationery are both demand-led services and products. Theses are used to support business needs and costs fluctuate due to increases/decreases in operational activity, for example, postage increases attributable to winter fuel and cold weather payment notifications during December 2010 and January 2011.

DWP communicates with our customers via a range of postal services—actual volumes in 2010-11 were approximately 220 million items. Postage services to customers' home addresses include payment via girocheques, notifications and supporting correspondence for individual entitlements/decisions.

My Department does not have expenditure on telephones. This equipment is provided under a network services arrangement and the number of discreet telephones is not directly charged for.

Unemployment: Norfolk

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Norfolk were registered unemployed for two years or longer in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009, *(e)* 2010 and *(f)* 2011. [81549]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Norfolk were registered unemployed for two years or longer (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008, (d) 2009, (e) 2010 and (f) 2011. (81549)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of people resident in Norfolk who were unemployed for two years or longer are not available.

As an alternative in Table 1, we have provided the number of people who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for over 104 weeks resident in Norfolk in September of each year from 2006 to 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people[1] resident in Norfolk who were claiming jobseeker's allowance for over 104 weeks

September	Level
2006	710
2007	570
2008	280
2009	210
2010	860
2011	1,020

[1] Computerised claims only. These account for approximately 99.7% of all claims.

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Universal Credit

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reports he has commissioned from external advisers on the introduction of Universal Credit in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [79182]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), has not commissioned any reports from external advisers specifically on the introduction of universal credit in either 2010 or 2011.

However the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked the Social Security Advisory Committee to undertake an independent review of passported benefits and how they link with universal credit. The Committee will produce an advisory report at the end of January 2011.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children under the age of 18 he estimates will live in households that will receive the new universal credit benefit following the national roll-out. [81076]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that following the implementation of universal credit:

(a) Approximately 9.3 million adults will live in benefit units which are entitled to universal credit.

(b) Approximately 6.7 million dependent children will live in benefit units which are entitled to universal credit.

These estimates have been made using the Department's Policy Simulation Model, which is based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS), and is consistent with the updated Impact Assessment for Universal Credit which was published in October 2011.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received zero points in a work capability assessment and were passed on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available; [80221]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received between zero and six points in a work capability assessment and were passed on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [80222]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the Work Capability Assessment rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

If someone is assessed to be Fit for Work by DWP they are no longer entitled to claim ESA. However, they may ask for a revision and/or they may appeal against the DWP decision.

Tables 1 to 3 as follows show appeals heard on Fit for Work decisions, where between zero and six points were recorded at the face-to-face assessment. The tables cover ESA claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010 (this is the latest period for which these figures are available).

Information is unavailable for the Jarrow constituency and data for Great Britain are given in place of data for the United Kingdom as data for Northern Ireland are not available. The figures provided are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred—as a result, figures may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 1: Fit for Work appeals in South Tyneside unitary authority

	All fit for work	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date) (%)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant (%)*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld (%)*
0 points	2,000	800	43	300	500	38	62
1 to 6 points	300	200	54	100	100	44	56
0 to 6 points	2,200	1,000	44	400	600	39	61

Table 2: Fit for Work appeals in the north-east

	All fit for work	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date) (%)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant (%)*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld (%)*
0 points	28,300	13,000	46	4,300	8,700	33	67
1 to 6 points	4,000	2,300	57	1,100	1,200	48	52
0 to 6 points	32,300	15,300	47	5,400	9,900	35	65

Table 3: Appeals heard on Fit for Work decisions in Great Britain

	All fit for work	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date) (%)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant (%)*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld (%)*
0 points	342,900	128,400	37	43,100	85,400	34	66
1 to 6 points	77,700	34,800	45	16,100	18,700	46	54
0 to 6 points	420,500	163,200	39	59,200	104,000	36	64

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) Work Capability Assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in October 2011, can be found here:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeals include ESA claims up to the end of August 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be Fit for Work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service.
4. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK who have failed a work capability assessment in the last 12 months have subsequently had the decision overturned on appeal. [80390]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the work capability assessment rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

If someone is assessed to be fit for work by DWP, they are no longer entitled to claim ESA. However, they may ask for a revision and/or they may appeal against the DWP decision.

The following table shows appeals heard on fit for work decisions, for ESA claims starting between September 2009 and August 2010 (this is the latest 12-month period for which these figures are available).

Information is unavailable for the Jarrow constituency and data for Great Britain are given in place of data for the United Kingdom as data for Northern Ireland are not available. The figures provided are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred—as a result, figures may not sum to the totals shown.

Appeals heard on fit for work decisions

	All fit for work	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Percentage of fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage of decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage of DWP decision upheld*
South Tyneside	1,300	500	42	200	300	40	60
North-east	18,400	8,500	46	3,100	5,500	36	64
Great Britain	251,700	91,200	36	32,900	58,300	36	64

Notes:
1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in October 2011, can be found at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above comes from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeals include ESA claims started from September 2009 up to the end of August 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be fit for work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service.
4. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to receive the next report from Professor Malcolm Harrington on the work capability assessment. [80737]

Chris Grayling: Professor Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment will be published before the end of 2011.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK received over six points in a work capability assessment and were successful at appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [80738]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the work capability assessment rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

If someone is assessed to be fit for work by DWP they are no longer entitled to claim ESA. However, they may ask for a revision and/or they may appeal against the DWP decision.

The following table shows appeals heard on fit for work decisions, where between seven and 14 points were recorded at the face-to-face assessment. People scoring 15 points or more at assessment are typically assessed to be eligible for ESA in the Work Related Activity Group or Support Group. The table covers ESA claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010 (this is the latest period for which these figures are available).

Information is unavailable for the Jarrow constituency and data for Great Britain are given in place of data for the United Kingdom as data for Northern Ireland are not available. The figures provided are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred—as a result, figures may not sum to the totals shown.

Fit for work appeals where seven to 14 points was scored at assessment

	All fit for work	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Percentage of fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld*
South Tyneside	100	100	63	0	0	64	36
North East	1,800	1,100	62	700	400	63	37
Great Britain	32,600	15,900	49	10,100	5,800	63	37

Notes:
1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in October 2011, can be found at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeals include ESA claims started from October 2008 up to the end of August 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be fit for work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service.
4. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Administration: Allowances

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations his Department has received on the merits of defining administration expenses; and if he will make a statement. [81200]

Mr Davey: The Department has not received any recent representations on the merits of defining administration expenses

Apprentices

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the *(a)* findings and *(b)* recommendations of the British Chambers of Commerce report, entitled Skills for Business: More to Learn. [78801]

Mr Hayes: The Government welcome the British Chambers of Commerce's (BCC) report "Skills for Business: More to Learn?". Officials in the Department will be meeting with the BCC later this month when they will discuss the key findings and recommendations.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward proposals to amend apprenticeship frameworks to make them more adaptable to business needs, as recommended in the British Chambers of Commerce October 2011 report on skills for business; [78803]

(2) if he will respond to the findings on apprentices contained in the British Chambers of Commerce report Skills for business: more to learn. [79062]

Mr Hayes: A package of measures to reduce bureaucracy and make it as easy as possible for employers to recruit and employ an apprentice was announced at last week's apprenticeship summit as well as incentive payments of up to £1,500 for small firms taking on their first young apprentice aged 16 to 24. The measures include speeding up the process of advertising vacancies and streamlining health and safety requirements to remove additional demands on employers that already meet national standards. Many of the recommendations from the BCC report are reflected in these measures.

Employers can already develop their own frameworks or run apprenticeships in-house as long as they can meet the high standards we expect from apprenticeships. We will be working with partners to explore ways to further reduce bureaucracy within the system and improve employer ownership.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote *(a)* high end apprenticeship schemes at NVQ level 4 and above and *(b)* apprenticeships in the technology, engineering and science sector. [79061]

Mr Hayes: On 22 July the Prime Minister announced a £25 million fund to support the creation of up to 10,000 advanced and higher apprenticeships over the next four years, giving firms in a wide range of sectors including advanced manufacturing, information technology and engineering the hi-tech skills they need to grow. We expect to announce the successful bidders shortly.

Recognising the importance of the technology, engineering and science sector in stimulating growth in our economy, and building on the existing work by the National Apprenticeship Service to encourage new apprenticeships in these sectors, we are working very closely with the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, the National Apprenticeship Service, and the relevant Sector Skills Councils on a project to develop a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Apprenticeship Growth Plan. This will be published by the end of the year.

Beechwood Equipment Ltd

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions concerning the removal of Beechwood Equipment Ltd from the DSEi 2011 fair for marketing leg cuffs and gang chains; and if he will make a statement. [81342]

Mr Prisk: Officials in the Export Control Organisation, together with representatives of Her Majesty's (HM) Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency, worked closely with the organisers of Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition (DSEi) 2011 before, during and after the conference. The organisers became aware during the conference of two alleged breaches of UK trade controls and took action accordingly. The incidents were reported to HM Revenue and Customs and they took appropriate action.

Billing: EU Action

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the EU Late Payment Directive to be transposed into UK law. [81010]

Mr Prisk: The deadline for transposition of Directive 2011/7/EU on combating late payment in commercial transactions (recast) is 16 March 2013. We expect to complete the transposition of the directive in England and Wales on 16 March 2013.

BMI

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any consideration of competition issues arising from the sale of British Midland International would be considered by the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU competition authorities. [81203]

Mr Davey: The parties will need to consider whether the transaction qualifies under the EU merger regulation for a mandatory review by the European Commission or whether a filing needs to be made to the Office of Fair Trading. At this stage no filing has been made to the competition authorities, however preliminary discussions are taking place between the Office of Fair Trading, the European Commission and the merging parties.

Business: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the extent to which the cost of child care acts as a deterrent to women entrepreneurs. [80702]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Department has made no formal assessment of the extent to which the cost of child care acts as a deterrent to women entrepreneurs. However, we continue to collect and evaluate evidence on women's entrepreneurship and we are already taking action in areas where the evidence supports intervention, specifically on enterprise education and mentoring.

Research in the UK and Norway shows that hands-on enterprise experience can be transformative and that is why I have announced this week two initiatives to support enterprise in schools: working with the Schools Network to develop resources for teachers to build and develop school businesses, and working with Inspiring the Future to recruit 2,500 local enterprise champions to engage with schools (with part of the intention being to provide positive role models of female entrepreneurship).

The Government have also recently announced funding to recruit and train 5,000 mentors to support female entrepreneurs. We know that female entrepreneurs typically have a different approach in some areas of business compared to their male counterparts, including risk and financial management. We also know that third party advice is a key ingredient in business growth.

Earlier this month, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), announced that the Government will establish a Women's Business Council, to provide advice to Government on what can be done to maximise women's contribution to future economic growth. I look forward to working with the Home Secretary in developing the council.

Business: Trade Fairs

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on comparative spending by the UK Government and other EU member states on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises' international tradeshow access. [80754]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible to provide a detailed comparison of spending as this information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to provide. However, we know that Germany spends above €40 million per year on supporting international tradeshow access and the UK spends £6 million through UK Trade & Investment's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP).

Conditions of Employment

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department's employment law review will give consideration to the *(a)* trends in the number of and *(b)* suitability of regulation for employees on atypical contracts and their employers. [81316]

Mr Davey: The Employment Law Review is being led by my Department and lasts for the lifetime of the Parliament. All employment-related policies are in scope, including those of other Government Departments that impact on businesses by virtue of their being an employer.

Atypical workers are a key component of the UK's flexible labour market and as part of the Employment Law Review we will continue to monitor trends and suitability of regulation that affects atypical working.

Data Protection

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the acquisition of Autonomy by Hewlett-Packard on the privacy and security of UK public and private organisations and their data. [78790]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* It is inappropriate to comment on this particular case, given the ongoing acquisition negotiations.

However, the Government take the protection of personal data very seriously. There are a number of measures in place to protect UK public and private data held by organisations and these are set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF). Departments are required to seek assurance from third party organisations that they are managing personal data in accordance with these standards.

The Information Commissioner takes issues of data protection extremely seriously and regulates and enforces the Data Protection Act 1998.

Defence: North-west England

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with colleagues in the Ministry of Defence about the effect of defence spending on the economy of the north-west; and if he will make a statement. [80461]

Mr Prisk: Ministers and officials from this Department hold regular discussions with their counterparts in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on a range of issues; but there have been no recent discussions on the issue of the specific effect of defence spending on the economy of the north-west.

We recognise that the potential job losses announced by BAE Systems will impact on the north-west although that decision was made largely in response to changes in international defence programmes and pressures on defence budgets globally. The Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service is providing support, training and careers advice to individuals whose jobs may be at risk and we are working with the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership on the potential new enterprise zone to support the local economy.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what procedures his Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73095]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills utilises a strict internal approval process to ensure that Government policy on the use of consultants is adhered to. A business case is submitted with justification for external expertise with appropriate sign-off from finance and senior management. Competitive tendering, most commonly against existing framework agreements, is undertaken to ensure value for money and due diligence carried out against the costs to ensure compliance with framework and agreed Government mandates.

To ensure continued value for money any consultants engaged by core BIS, Executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies who cost above £20,000 require approval every three months by the Consultancy Exemption Board. Subsequently if a consultancy is expected to last longer than nine months there is an additional requirement to obtain Cabinet Office approval prior to signing the contract.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80187]

Mr Davey: The Department has only one accounting code within its central finance system addressing "design". This code descriptor is for "Media and Design Services".

Central records indicate that the Department has spent £12,686,618 on such services since May 2010.

It is not possible within cost thresholds to differentiate between payments for "Media" and "Design" services.

Payment addresses for suppliers of media and design services since May 2010 are contained within the central finance system. I will be placing the relevant extract from the finance system in the Libraries of the House.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80706]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was set up in June 2009.

16 new cases were opened in the last Parliament (June 2009 to April 2010) and 19 opened since May 2010. 13 of these cases have been closed.

The Department engages the Treasury Solicitor's Department to conduct all its judicial review litigation. The Treasury Solicitor's Department charges for this. The following table sets out the charges made by the Treasury Solicitor's Department to BIS for the financial year 2009-10 and from May 2010 to date.

Judicial reviews	*Total fees, charges and Disb (£)*
June 2009 to April 2010	199,546
May 2010 to date	297,261

They include both fees charged by the Treasury Solicitor's Department and disbursements, which included counsel's fees. They relate only to judicial reviews in which BIS was involved.

Details relating whether applications have been successful, failed or remain pending, costs and awards could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department and its predecessors were responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [76387]

Mr Davey: With a few exceptions, non-departmental public bodies do not employ civil servants.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service is one of those exceptions and currently employs 850 civil servants. Historical data on staff numbers can be found in past ACAS annual reports and accounts which are available on the ACAS website:

http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1473

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department received a bonus in each year since 2007. [76391]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was formed through a machinery of government change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

The following information has been drawn from various data sources and provides details for both of the former Departments that were merged to create BIS. We do not hold information prior to 2008 due to the merger as detailed above.

Financial year	*Number of bonuses*
2008/09	3,039
2009/10	2,030
2010/11	950
2011/12	[1]720

[1] This is not the final figure, some awards are outstanding.

Departmental Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's budget for research and development was in each of the last five years; what the sciences component of that budget was in each such year; and what he expects such budgets to be in each year of the spending review period. [78777]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Information on science and research spending is published in the Department's Annual Reports and Accounts for the relevant year:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports/annual-reports

The 2010-11 Annual Report and Accounts contains historic data for the years 2006-07 to 2010-11 at Annex D:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/b/11-p102-bis-annual-report-and-accounts-2010-11.pdf

The allocation of science and research funding over the spending review period was published in the following document:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/science/docs/a/10-1356-allocation-of-science-and-research-funding-2011-2015

Departmental Secondment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 301-2W, on departmental secondment, what steps he has taken to ensure that industry plays a more active role in the business and policy-making of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [80918]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* As the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Ministers and officials have frequent contact and discussions with business on a range of issues.

We have expanded and strengthened industry specific forums, to actively pursue growth and remove barriers which are restricting enterprise.

Domestic Workers: Conditions of Employment

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of General Agreement on Trade in Services Mode 4 on the employment terms and conditions of domestic workers; and if he will make a statement. [80743]

Mr Davey: Both the existing EU commitments in Mode 4 under the General Agreement on Trade in Services and the EU offer in Mode 4 in the Doha Round contain provisions clarifying that all other requirements of EU and member state laws and regulations regarding entry, stay, work and social security measures shall continue to apply.

Employment: Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support the Government provide to companies in the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector to help them export overseas; and if he will make a statement. [80023]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment helps companies with low carbon technologies and environmental goods exports through its core services for businesses, such as trade missions, trade shows and exhibitions both overseas and in the UK.

In addition, the green export campaign positions the UK as a leading provider of low carbon solutions in markets where there are strong, clear commercial opportunities. The campaign promotes the UK's low carbon capabilities to international buyers and investors.

UKTI work closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas network to promote green growth including identifying new opportunities for UK businesses stemming from international agreements and overseas Governments' policies in carbon reduction.

Employment: India

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Indian Government on the employment of foreign nationals in the UK on terms and conditions that differ from those applied to UK workers. [80742]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has met with relevant Ministers in the Indian Government in June, September and October 2010 and June 2011. A variety of matters were discussed, including immigration policy.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he will take to ensure that areas which fall within a Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 2 (County) Region for funding purposes under the draft EU regulations relating to the 2014 to 2020 EU Structural Fund, and which have a lower gross domestic product than the rest of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 2 region will not be disadvantaged in funding terms as a result of the banding system used. [80235]

Mr Prisk: Although the allocation system is designed around the nomenclature for territorial units for statistics (NUTS 2) classification, the Government will seek to ensure the UK programme reflects the needs of individual areas within it. The Government are currently considering the approach they will take to the funding in the 2014 to 2020 round.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the administrative structure used to allocate funding allocated to the UK under the draft EU regulations relating to 2014-2020 EU structural fund and match funding will not exclude local communities and organisations from the allocation process. [80255]

Mr Prisk: The Government are currently considering their response to the draft regulations relating to the 2014-20 structural funds. As negotiations progress and the shape of the regulations for the 2014-20 round becomes clearer, we will further consider the administrative structures that we will use to deliver the funding, consulting with delivery partners.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what response the Government intend to make to the draft EU regulations relating to 2014-2020 EU structural fund. [80256]

Mr Prisk: The UK supports the aim of cohesion policy in reducing disparities in development between the different regions of the EU, so that every part of the EU is able to develop to its full potential. The Government are currently considering the detail of the Commission's draft regulations for the 2014-20 structural funds and the implications for the UK, much of which is still to be clarified by the Commission. However, the Government have already published their position in relation to the Commission's Fifth Cohesion Report earlier this year, which set out some of the principles underpinning the draft regulations.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the European Commission in relation to the draft EU regulations relating to the 2014-2020 EU Structural Fund, to ensure that significant funding is provided to support rural environments as well as urban development. [80257]

Mr Prisk: The Commission's draft regulations propose that at least 5% of the European Regional Development Fund should be allocated to the use of integrated territorial investments in urban areas. The Commission has yet to publish full details of its methodology for allocating funds but it is likely the bulk of the funding will continue to be allocated using objective criteria such as GDP.

EU Grants and Loans: Torbay

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the exception applying to regions with less than 75 per cent. of EU gross domestic product under the draft EU regulations relating to 2014-2020 EU Structural Fund will be applied to Torbay requiring it to allocate 60 per cent. instead of 80 per cent. of its funding to the thematic objectives laid down by the regulations. [81111]

Mr Davey: Torbay falls within the Devon NUTS 2 region. The most recent Eurostat GDP figures for the Devon NUTS 2 region show its GDP per capita as 89.6% of the EU average for the period 2006-08. As such, under the Commission's draft regulations, it would currently be classified as a transition region. The Commission's draft regulations would require at least 80% of the European Regional Development Fund for transition regions nationally to be allocated to three thematic objectives, and at least 70% of European Social Fund for transition regions nationally to be allocated to four investment priorities. It is too early to determine how funding will be allocated between regions. It should also be noted that the final regulations are likely to be based on more recent GDP data for regions across Europe, which are not yet available through Eurostat.

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of his Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing EU competences. [79812]

Mr Davey: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many ministerial-level meetings have been held in his Department during the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [80246]

Mr Davey: The Department routinely hosts ministerial meetings on issues covered in the coalition agreement.

Export Controls: Arms Trade

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to implement Council Regulation (EC) No. 1236/2005 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment or torture; and if he will make a statement. [81336]

Mr Prisk: Council Regulation (EC) No. 1236/2005 has direct effect in the UK and is binding in its entirety. The only implementing measures necessary were to provide for offences and penalties for breaches of the provisions relating to technical assistance. These measures were implemented at the time the regulation came into force on 30 July 2006.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to develop a control mechanism to be incorporated into Council Regulation (EC) No. 1236/2005 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment or torture to allow Governments to prohibit the trade of any items not specifically listed in the Regulation that have no use other than for the purposes of inflicting the death penalty, torture or other ill-treatment, or where there are reasonable grounds to believe that such items would be used for such purposes; and if he will make a statement. [81337]

Mr Prisk: The Government do support this idea in principle and have invited the European Commission to work on a proposal. This would require an amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1236/2005, and therefore require a proposal from the Commission, which would then need to be approved by the Council and European Parliament. The Commission has indicated that it will begin discussions on possible amendments to the regulation in 2012.

Export Credit Guarantees: Egypt

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much is owed to the UK by Egypt through the Export Credits Guarantee Scheme; and in what categories of expenditure. [78802]

Mr Davey: Outstanding debts owed by Egypt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) amount to £94.25 million. Egypt defaulted on the payment of its external debt in 1986 which resulted in ECGD paying claims in respect of export contracts it had supported prior to this date. ECGD (and other official creditors) is recovering the claims it paid through a debt restructuring with Egypt arranged by the Paris Club, an informal network of official creditor nations whose role is to achieve co-ordinated solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries. There are two rescheduling agreements dated 1987 and 1991.

Green Investment Bank

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether the green investment bank will have a function to invest in measures to improve air quality; and if he will make a statement; [80231]

(2) whether the green investment bank will have a role to invest in measures to protect and restore biodiversity; and if he will make a statement; [80310]

(3) whether the green investment bank will have a role to invest in measures to improve air quality; and if he will make a statement. [80445]

Mr Prisk: The UK Government are committed to setting the UK firmly on the transition to a green and growing economy and the green investment bank will become a key component of this progression, complementing other green policies to help accelerate additional capital. Our intention is for the bank to be given a broad remit, with Ministers and the board agreeing priority sectors periodically and the bank making individual investment decisions against a double bottom line of green impact and financial return.

Higher Education: Admissions

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications have been submitted by residents of *(a)* Sheffield Central constituency, *(b)* Sheffield, *(c)* South Yorkshire and *(d)* Yorkshire and the Humber in the 2011-12 admissions cycle to date; and how many such applications had been submitted during the equivalent period of the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [80419]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The latest information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

Applicants to UCAS as at 15 October by parliamentary constituency/region

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*[2]
Sheffield Central constituency[3]	119	98
Sheffield	464	404
South Yorkshire	978	798
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,070	3,364

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.
[3] Parliamentary constituency has been identified using the home postcode, regardless of the declared area of permanent residence.

Applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region

		Application cycle
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[2]	*2011-12*[3]
Sheffield Central constituency[4]	93	84
Sheffield	320	321
South Yorkshire	570	573
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,546	2,482

[1] These cover medical, dentistry and veterinary science courses, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.
[4] Parliamentary constituency has been identified using the home postcode, regardless of the declared area of permanent residence.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants to each higher education institution held an access to higher education qualification in each of the last 10 years. [80874]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information is given in the table. The identification of Access to Higher Education qualifications on the UCAS application system was improved from 2009 onwards. Earlier years are not comparable and have not been reported. Final end of year data for 2011 have not yet been released. Due to low cell counts for individual institutions, data have been aggregated up to the country of institution where the applicant applied.

Applicants holding access to higher education qualifications by institution country applied to[1]

	Year of entry[2]	
Institution country applied to:	*2009*	*2010*
England	17,699	26,974
Northern Ireland	349	383
Scotland	424	643
Wales	1,609	2,507

[1] Each applicant can submit up to five applications (or tour If they apply to medical, dentistry or veterinary courses). In this table, applicants have been counted once for each country they applied to.
[2] Includes applicants who applied in each of these years for deferred entry in the following year.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications have been submitted by residents of *(a)* Leicester South constituency, *(b)* the City of Leicester, *(c)* Leicestershire and *(d)* the East Midlands in the 2011-12 admissions cycle to date; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [81236]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The latest information is in the following tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

All applicants to UCAS as at 15 October by parliamentary constituency/region

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*[2]
Leicester South constituency	116	110
The City of Leicester	323	304
Leicestershire	1,121	940
East Midlands	4,109	3,286

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

Applicants to courses with a 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region

Area of domicile	Application cycle 2010-11[2]	2011-12[3]
Leicester South constituency	75	84
The City of Leicester	216	226
Leicestershire	709	659
East Midlands	2,289	

[1] These cover medical, dentistry and veterinary science courses, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses stating in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applicants accepted to each higher education institution held an access to higher education qualification in each of the last 10 years. [81618]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information is given in the table. The identification of Access to Higher Education qualifications on the UCAS application system was improved from 2009 onwards. Earlier years are not comparable and have not been reported. Final end of year data for 2011 have not yet been released. Due to low cell counts for individual institutions, data have been aggregated up to the country of institution where the applicant was accepted.

Accepted applicants holding Access to Higher Education qualifications by institution country

Institution country	Year of entry[1] 2009	2010
England	12,680	18,389
Northern Ireland	194	154
Scotland	72	80
Wales	735	961

[1] Includes applicants who applied in each of these years for deferred entry in the following year.

Higher Education: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many universities have research units in diabetes that are publicly funded. [81184]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) does not fund any units or centres devoted exclusively to diabetes research. However, the MRC has funded diabetes research projects in 38 organisations between 2008-09 and 2010-11, including 27 external organisations and 11 of the MRC's institutes, units and centres. These are listed in the following table.

Medical Research Council organisations	External organisations
MRC Clinical Sciences Centre	Barts and The London School of Medicine
MRC Clinical Trial Service Unit	Cardiff University
MRC Dunn Human Nutrition Unit	Imperial College London
MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre	Institute of Child Health London
MRC Epidemiology Unit	Institute of Ophthalmology
MRC General Practice Research Framework	King's College London
MRC Human Nutrition Research	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit	Loughborough University
MRC Protein Phosphorylation Unit	Newcastle University
MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing	Queen Mary, University of London
National Institute for Medical Research	Queen's University Belfast
	St George's, University of London
	The University of Manchester
	University College London
	University of Aberdeen
	University of Bath
	University of Birmingham
	University of Bristol
	University of Cambridge
	University of Dundee
	University of Edinburgh
	University of Leeds
	University of Leicester
	University of Liverpool
	University of Oxford
	University of Southampton
	University of Wales College of Medicine

The MRC's biggest investment in diabetes research is at the MRC Epidemiology Unit, which is based on the Addenbrookes Hospital site in Cambridge. Further details on this unit can be found at:

http://www.mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk/

Full details of research funded by the MRC can be found on the MRC's research portfolio at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

The Department of Health funds National Institute for Health Research biomedical research centres within leading NHS and university partnerships. Centres with a research theme in diabetes are shown in the following table.

NHS organisation	Academic partner
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	University of Cambridge
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Imperial College London
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Newcastle University
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust	University of Oxford

In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for England provides funding to support excellent research across the breadth of disciplines within universities, which is used at individual universities' discretion.

Nuclear Suppliers Group

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism has been put in place to monitor the actions of countries who are members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group when the Government notifies them of the refusal of export licences. [80639]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Consultations on denial notifications between members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) are an established feature of the regime. Issues of concern with NSG partners over denial notifications are raised on a bilateral basis or more widely in the various meetings of the NSG.

Office for Life Sciences

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the resource budget of the Office for Life Sciences was in each year since it was established; [80558]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band were employed in the Office for Life Sciences in each year since it was established. [80559]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) was established in January 2009 comprising officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), HM Treasury, the Department of Health (DH) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). The OLS had a remit to work with the life sciences industry to build a sustainable and integrated industry in the UK in the future. Its work culminated in the 'Life Sciences Blueprint', published in July 2009, followed by 'Life Sciences 2010: Delivering the Life Sciences Blueprint', published in January 2010.

In May 2010, the OLS was restructured with all staff now funded by the Department. The OLS continues to work closely and collaboratively with the Department of Health to ensure the UK maintains and builds on its world leading position in life sciences.

Table 1 contains details of the cross-departmental staff resources secured to run the OLS from February 2009 to May 2010. Table 2 contains details of staff allocated to the work of the OLS from May 2010 through to present day. The discrete numbers for OLS (in the second table) are thus, however, in addition we have a virtual team network across BIS and DH (and associated non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which reaches out to some 25-30 people on an "as needed" basis for project work which crosses departmental and divisional boundaries.

Table 1

Grade	*OLS*	*Dedicated to policy function in DH*	*Dedicated to function in BIS Bioscience Unit*
SCS PB2	0.5	0.2	0.5
SCS PB1	1	<1	1
Grade 6	1	0	1
Grade 7	5	3	5
SEO	0	0	0
HEO	0	3	2.5
EO	1	2.5	1
Fast Stream	0	0	0
AO	0	2	1
Total	8.5	<10.7	12

Table 2

Grade	*May 2010*	*June 2010*	*September 2010*	*November 2010*	*April 2011*	*July 2011*	*November 2011*
SCS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grade 6	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Grade 7	8	6	6	5	5	5	5
SEO	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
HEO	2.5	2.5	0.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	
EO	3	2	2	2	2	2	3
Fast Stream	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Project Pool	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	23.5	16.5	15.9	17.9	14.9	15	15

Given the cross-departmental working arrangements prior to May 2010, data relating to the resource budget are only available from that point, as follows:

Financial year	*Month*	*Budget (£)*
2010-11	May	1,185,544
2010-11	June	970,050
2011-12	April	692,700

Overseas Trade: South America

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase bilateral trade with *(a)* Chile, *(b)* Peru, *(c)* Uruguay, *(d)* Paraguay and *(e)* Bolivia; and if he will make a statement. [75288]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague)'s 2010 Canning Lecture confirmed the UK Government's plan to look again at Latin America in terms of political co-operation and trade and investment.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) supports British companies by identifying opportunities, potential clients and partners in the market. Visits and business events are arranged to promote specific opportunities and raise the profile of UK companies. Over the last year, UKTI has helped companies in a wide range of sectors in Chile and Peru, including education, financial services, mining, energy, defence and security.

UKTI targets its overseas network, to ensure that resources are deployed in those markets where there is demand. A number of diplomatic positions have been created in Latin America to focus on the Government's prosperity and commercial diplomacy agenda.

UKTI does not have a presence in Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay. However, high-level support from our ambassadors in those countries is available, particularly in respect of contract negotiations or market access issues.

Pollution Control

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* turnover, *(b)* level of employment and *(c)* level of exports attributable to the transport pollution control sector in each year to 2020. [80024]

Mr Prisk: HM Government have made no estimates regarding projected turnover, employment or exports relating to transport pollution control mechanisms.

Post Offices: Guisborough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from Guisborough Town Council on Royal Mail privatisation. [80767]

Mr Davey: This Department's records do not show any representation from Guisborough Town Council on Royal Mail privatisation other than the petition presented to Parliament by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland on 9 November 2011 (P000977).

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the closure of the Guisborough Royal Mail Delivery Office on businesses in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [81148]

Mr Davey: Ensuring that Royal Mail has the right facilities in the right places to enable it to collect, process, and deliver mail is an operational matter for the company. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Suffolk

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid in Post Office Network Subsidy to *(a)* each county in England, *(b)* Suffolk and *(c)* Suffolk Coastal constituency in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [81410]

Mr Davey: The Government provide an annual subsidy to Post Office Ltd. This is in recognition of the important social and economic role that post offices play in communities across the country in providing access to services in communities where other providers do not. This subsidy is granted to enable Post Office Ltd to maintain a national network of around 11,500 branches and to meet the strict Government access criteria. The subsidy is not distributed by country, county, or constituency.

In the last financial year (2010/11) the Government made a subsidy payment of £150 million. This financial year (2011/12) the Government will make a subsidy payment of £180 million.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if he will make a statement; [74772]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [74841]

Mr Davey: The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced in November 2010 that every Department will put in place Rights to Provide to take over the running of services. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), is working with Cabinet Office to consider whether areas of central Government work, and other work areas for which BIS has responsibility, are appropriate for developing public sector mutuals.

Within BIS work is being carried out on:

Post Office mutualisation:

The Government believe Post Office Ltd could be ideally suited to a mutual model, with those that know it best working together, with a greater say in how the business is run, as well as a stake in its success.

A public consultation, "Building a Mutual Post Office", was launched on 19 September and sets out options to move the Post Office from Government ownership to a mutual model.

It proposes mixed membership to give sub-postmasters, employees, post office customers and local communities a direct role in setting the strategic direction of the business. The Postal Services Act 2011 requires any mutualised Post Office Ltd to act for the public benefit.

Converting Post Office Ltd—the national company that sets the strategy for the post office network and operates some of the larger, 'Crown' branches—to a mutual would not affect the ownership of the thousands of privately-owned post office branches up and down the country.

Subject to consultation, the Government believe that the Post Office could be on a clear path to mutualisation by the end of this Parliament.

Further education:

Forms of mutualisation are part of the wide range of delivery models that further education colleges, as independent providers of publicly-funded further education services, can consider when determining how best to meet the needs of their local communities. A number of colleges are considering mutualisation approaches and this Department is following their progress with interest.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 111-12W, on Regional Growth Fund, what procedures *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have used to verify the estimates of indirect job creation supplied by successful bidders to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund. [81054]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* All of the figures for indirect job creation from the winning bids announced from the second round of the Regional Growth Fund on 31 October 2011 were taken directly from the bids submitted from successful bidders. Where direct or indirect jobs were incorrectly classified, jobs were put under the correct heading. Successful bidders who have completed due diligence and have received final grant offer letters, will provide the Department with reports on the progress of their projects including the number of jobs created (as provided in their bid) against which they will be able to draw down funding.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 111-12W, on Regional Growth Fund, how many of the recommended bids put forward for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund by its independent advisory panel were rejected by the Ministerial Group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. [81055]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The independent advisory panel was set up to provide advice to Ministers to inform their decisions. This advice was not public, but Ministers took this advice into account when deciding which bids should be supported.

In line with the constitutional convention of collective decision-making, and section 2 of the Ministerial Code, the Government do not disclose details of the internal process through which decisions are taken.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when recipients of the first round of Regional Growth Fund awards were notified in writing of the amount they will receive; and when due diligence for each award was completed. [81105]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* All successful bidders from the first round of Regional Growth Fund were notified of the outcome of their bid by e-mail on 11 April 2011. So far, nine individual bids have completed due diligence and have been issued with final offer letters.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when due diligence for the award of monies from the first round of the Regional Growth Fund was started; when such due diligence was completed; and when recipients were notified in writing that due diligence had been completed. [81106]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* It is for successful bidders to initiate due diligence upon receipt of a conditional offer letter from the Department. A majority of successful bids from the first round are going through due diligence and we expect the reports to be sent to the Department soon. So far, nine individual bids have completed due diligence and have been issued with final offer letters.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the cost was of due diligence associated with each of the recipients of the first round of Regional Growth Fund awards; and what proportion such costs represented of the respective amount of the award; [81107]

(2) whether recipients of Regional Growth Fund awards are liable for due diligence costs associated with respective projects. [81108]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* It is for successful bidders to pay the cost of due diligence.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which of the recipients of the first round of Regional Growth Fund awards provide onward distribution of financial awards. [81109]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Of the successful bids from Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund, six bids will provide onward distribution of financial awards. They are:

Community Development Finance Association
RBS and NatWest Regional Growth Scheme
Capital for Enterprise Ltd
HSBC
Liverpool Echo
University of Plymouth (The South West Aspire Fund)

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when completion of due diligence by recipients of the first round of Regional Growth Fund awards will be completed where it has not yet been completed; what funds have been received by recipients of such awards; and when recipients will receive any outstanding monies. [81229]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Time scales for due diligence are driven by the individual commercial considerations of the beneficiaries, so it is not possible to give a date for completion.

Instalments of Regional Growth Fund funding are normally transferred to beneficiaries within 30 days of receiving a valid claim. There are no beneficiaries with a claim for funding outstanding at this time.

Regional Growth Fund: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bids for money from the Regional Growth Fund were made by organisations in Warrington in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of those were successful. [80332]

Mr Prisk: 28 bids that will have an impact in the Warrington area (this includes bids from organisations in Warrington which could have an impact in more than one area) were received in the second round of the Regional Growth Fund. Of these, 15 bids were successful.

Research: Costs

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the rate at which research costs are changing. [79764]

Mr Willetts: The Government have protected research spending by ring fencing the annual £4.6 billion resource budget for science and research for this spending review period, committing itself to investing over £20 billion in science and research by 2015.

At the time of the settlement, the Government were using the GDP deflator which came close to 10% by the end of SR10. The Government recognise that general inflation forecasts will vary over time and calculations of specific inflation rates in particular sectors will give variations around those.

Science: Higher Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage universities to offer more science, technology, engineering and mathematics qualifications in higher education. [78359]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Following the publication of the Higher Education White Paper in June, Ministers wrote to Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) instructing the Council that meeting the additional costs of high cost subjects remains a priority for teaching funding for 2012/13. Ministers asked HEFCE to consult, over the summer, on how this might best be achieved and will issue final instructions in the grant letter, due around the turn of the year. Ministers also asked HEFCE to consult, in winter, on the longer term approach to allocating teaching funding, for 2013/14 and beyond, and, in particular, on how to ensure that this funding continues to support a healthy mix of subjects (including science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

The Government also understand that science, technology, engineering and maths skills are vital to businesses, health and research, and want to ensure that students are more aware of the value of undertaking these courses at HE institutions. The Higher Education White Paper also outlined a strategy for improving the information published by HE institutions which have been asked to do more to explain the benefits of studying different subjects so that potential students can make informed choices about what to study.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60194]

Mr Davey: Information on the Department's procurement spend level with small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in September 2011 will shortly be compiled and placed in the Libraries of the House in December. This will include details of the proportion of spend with SMEs in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West for that period.

I have asked chief executives of the Executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 14 June 2011:

Thank you for your parliamentary question addressed to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking what proportion of contracts issued by the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available.

Please be advised the Agency has not awarded any contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises in any of the areas stated above in the latest period for which figures are available.

Letter from Dr David Williams:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what proportion of contracts issued by (a) his Department and (b) agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. (60194)

The UK Space Agency became an executive agency on the 1st April 2011 and no contracts have been awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency since 1st April 2011.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what proportion of contracts issued by (a) his Department and (b) agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available.

Although The Insolvency Service contracts for goods and services in Scotland, its organisational presence there is limited. The centrally-managed contracts serving our Edinburgh office are mainly with companies too large to be considered SMEs. However in financial year 2010 to 2011, one of the six legal

services providers on our legal services framework, total value estimated at £20 million, is an SME and falls into category (i) above.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 8th July 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 13 June 2011, UIN 60194 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

As Companies House's main office is in South Wales only 2.4% of our contracts in the last financial year were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in Scotland, and none in South Lanarkshire or Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituencies.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 28 September 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 13 June 2011 (reference 2010/5788) to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking what proportion of contracts issued by (a) his Department and (b) Agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available.

The National Measurement Office does not maintain details of the contracts it awards in a manner which can readily be analysed to identify whether the supplier is a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME).

However, having identified invoices we have paid during the Financial Year 2010/11 to Scottish suppliers directly, we are able to confirm the following:

Several invoices were paid in respect of work carried out by TUV NEL Ltd. They are based in South Lanarkshire but not in your constituency. They are not an SME.

One invoice was paid in respect of work carried out by what appears to be an SME in Scotland (but not in South Lanarkshire or your constituency).

One invoice was paid in respect of work carried out by what appears to be an SME in South Lanarkshire (but not in your constituency).

In addition, we make a large number of purchases using the Government Procurement Card but we would not be able to identify Scottish suppliers from our data without incurring disproportionate costs.

Letter from John Alty, dated 10 November 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 13th June 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has had no contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available.

Students: Finance

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cases of non-payment of tuition fee loans by EU students are being pursued by Student Finance England. [78735]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* The figures are available at table 1 (iii) within the Official Statistics for the tax year 2000-01 to 2009-10 inclusive which is accessible at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP022011.pdf

The Student Loan Company (SLC) has established repayment arrangements for former students who move abroad, whether temporarily or permanently. In such cases the SLC requests evidence of earnings and gives the borrower a monthly repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan.

If any borrowers are due to repay and are not doing so, the SLC will not write off loans but will continue to recover arrears and outstanding balances until they expire. SLC use tracing agents to locate borrowers and will pursue any such borrowers through the courts, if necessary.

EC Regulation 44/2001 enables the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts, which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. These judgments can be enforced against any borrower who has moved to another EU member state, regardless of nationality.

SLC is currently in the process of raising court action against a number of overseas residents. The actual number who will be taken to court is not yet known, because raising such action often leads to borrowers contacting the SLC to arrange repayment.

Students: Loans

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from former students with student loans on the service they have received from those administering their loan repayment. [79769]

Mr Willetts: We do receive complaints about problems encountered with the collection of student loans. However, this Department does not hold records of the number of representations we receive from borrowers on the service they have received from those administering their loan repayment. To put this into context, at the end of 2010-11, there were 3.5 million borrowers and, of these, 2.3 million had accounts liable for repayment.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure the efficient administration of student loans. [79770]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills reviews the performance of the Student Loans Company (SLC) regularly. SLC is committed to improving the quality of service it delivers. Steps this year included the introduction of an electronic link with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to verify household income, meaning SLC was able to process the majority of new students' applications for means-tested support without asking customers to send in paper copies of financial evidence.

Supermarkets: Competition

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Groceries Code Adjudicator to be in place. [78648]

Mr Davey: The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill has undergone pre-legislative scrutiny, and Parliament published the Government's response to the BIS Select Committee report on 15 October 2011. We now aim to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

TICC Skillcentres: Redundancy

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees were made redundant when the Training for Industry and Commerce Company skills training centres went into liquidation; and how many of such employees received ex-gratia payments from the public purse. [81359]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1077W; 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1428W; and 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 292W.

Training: Internet

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the criteria are for mentors to be considered appropriate to be featured on the Mentors Me website. [81007]

Mr Prisk: All of the organisations available via the portal have been assessed to ensure that they meet certain quality standards including:

a programme of training and development of mentors;

a robust process for identifying and matching mentors and mentees; and

a code of conduct or code of ethics.

Any organisation wishing to be listed on the portal must sign up to and adhere to these requirements. The type of training for individual mentors will be determined by the mentoring organisation to which they belong and will vary according to the way in which that mentoring organisation works, the type of mentoring being delivered, and the experience of the mentor. All mentoring organisations on the portal train and develop their mentors and many organisations also encourage their mentors to move towards accreditation.

UK Trade & Investment: Expenditure

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much UK Trade & Investment spent in *(a)* the EU and *(b)* each other European country in the last year for which figures are available. [80984]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The full economic cost of UKTI operations in 2010/11 was:

(a) £49.5 million in the EU; and

(b) £14.1 million in wider Europe, comprised of:

	£ million
Russia	4.3
Turkey	2.7
Switzerland	2.2
Norway	1.8
Kazakhstan	0.8
Croatia	0.5
Serbia and Montenegro[1]	0.5
Ukraine	0.5
Azerbaijan	0.4
Iceland	0.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.2
	14.1

[1] Separate figures unavailable

UK Trade & Investment: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding the Government plan to provide to UK Trade & Investment to promote the UK's low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector in each year to 2014-15. [80011]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible to provide details of UK Trade and Investment funding in future years as these budgets have yet to be finalised.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government have provided to UK Trade & Investment to promote the UK's low carbon and environmental goods and services sector in each year since 2000. [80012]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment promotes UK low carbon and environmental goods and services across all sectors of the economy through its overseas posts, sectors group and regional networks. Given the breadth of activity across sectors and teams within UKTI it is not possible to dissociate the exact funding provided to deliver these services.

Utilities

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times he has met representatives of *(a)* EDF Energy, *(b)* RWE nPower, *(c)* E.ON, *(d)* Scottish Power, *(e)* British Gas and *(f)* Scottish and Southern Energy since May 2010; and if he will publish minutes of such meetings. [80017]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has had one meeting with each of EDF Energy and RWE nPower, and no meetings with any of the other companies listed.

We do not propose to publish the notes of these meetings as they contain commercially confidential information. It is essential to the trust on which meaningful dialogue with business is founded that companies are assured that Government will respect commercial confidentiality.

Vocational Education

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in *(a)* England and *(b)* the United Kingdom began a course in (i) Level 2 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology, (ii) Level 3 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology, (iii) Level 2 Certificate in Basic Plumbing Studies, (iv) Level 3 Certificate in Plumbing Studies, (v) Level 2 Certificate in Heating and Ventilation and (vi) Level 3 Certificate in Heating and Ventilation in academic year 2011-12; and what the cost to the public purse was of funding each such course. [79016]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of Government-funded further education and skills enrolments on certificates in electrotechnical technology, plumbing studies, and heating and ventilation installation courses by level in 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

The figures include enrolments across all further education learning routes, including further education, apprenticeships, workplace learning, adult safeguarded learning and university for industry funding streams.

Table 1: Further education enrolments on certificates in electrotechnical technology, plumbing studies and heating and ventilation installation courses by level in 2009/10

Learning aim title	Level 2	Level 3	Enrolments Total
Certificate in electrotechnical technology	26,580	18,220	44,810
Certificate in (basic at level 2) plumbing studies	19,110	6,690	25,790
Certificate in heating and ventilation installation	2,230	860	3,100

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum to due to rounding.
2. These data include Further Education, Apprenticeships, Work Based Learning, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams.
3. These data represent the number of enrolments matching these aim titles only.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on further education and skills participation, enrolments and achievements is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on further education and skills enrolments by aim title for academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10 is available in the National Aims Report:

http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/learners/

Table 2 provides the funding rates for certificates in electrotechnical technology, plumbing studies, and heating and ventilation installation courses by level in the 2009/10 academic year.

Table 2: Funding rates for certificates in electrotechnical technology, plumbing studies and heating and ventilation installation courses by level in 2009/10

£

			Skills Funding Agency (19+)		
Learning aim title	Level	Young People's Learning Agency (16-18)	Adult Learner Responsive	Workplace Learning	Apprenticeships (19+)
Certificate in electrotechnical technology	Level 2	3,796	3,662	1,618	4,069
Certificate in electrotechnical technology	Level 3	1,898	1,831	[1]	2,036
Certificate in basic plumbing studies	Level 2	4,176	4,028	1,618	4,028
Certificate in plumbing studies	Level 3	3,583	3,459	2,429	3,091
Certificate in heating and ventilation installation	Level 2	4,555	4,395	1,618	4,395
Certificate in heating and ventilation installation	Level 3	3,796	3,662	2,429	2,036

[1] Not funded

Note:
The rates represent the notional level of funding for a particular qualification. They do not necessarily represent the actual amount of funding paid to providers. This is because allocations are made at provider level based on aggregated data, so can not be disaggregated to qualification level.

Source:
Young People's Learning Agency (for ages 16 to 18) and Skills Funding Agency (for ages 19+)

In the 2011/12 academic year further education colleges and providers had an adult skills budget with earmarked investment for 19+ apprenticeships. We believe that only those qualifications which are aligned with the needs of employers, and recognised by them, should be funded. This is supported by the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF). Therefore, in line with the migration of qualifications onto the QCF, from the 2011/12 academic year, only the certificates in electrotechnical technology at levels 2 and 3 remain eligible for funding through 19+ apprenticeships.

JUSTICE

Bereaved Organisations Committee

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 256W, on coroners, whether representatives of any faith groups will sit on his proposed Bereaved Organisations Committee. [81284]

Mr Djanogly: We are currently considering the composition of the Bereaved Organisations Committee. If it is not practicable for faith groups to be represented on the committee itself then we will work with it to determine how faith issues will be properly represented in its work.

Equality and Diversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to increase equality in his Department; and what the cost was of any such steps. [80826]

Mr Blunt: As a Department, MoJ is working to embed equality and diversity as a normal part of everyday business. As an employer the MoJ is committed to ensuring that our policies are fair and accessible to all, and as a provider of services, that this is done so in a way that meets the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010).

Recent initiatives have included: the launch of a Reasonable Adjustment Support Service to help ensure disabled staff are effectively supported and able to contribute fully to delivering the business of the Department; in-house development of e-learning to support staff in challenging discrimination; Prison Service and Agency Instructions on ensuring equality of treatment for staff in National Offender Management Service

headquarters and public sector prison establishments; new guidance to ensure staff performance management is effective and fair; and work to better understand the demographic make up of our staff and any specific needs that will help us ensure they are fully engaged and performing at their best. This work has been undertaken as part of normal business as usual activity and is not costed separately.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unique hits his departmental website has received in each of the last 12 months. [80836]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of unique visitors to www.justice.gov.uk in each of the last 12 months, the total number of visits made by them and the number of pages viewed. Traffic to the website has increased following the closure of a number of other websites, such as Her Majesty's Courts Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service, and incorporation of the content of those websites in www.justice.gov.uk

	Visits	*Visitors*	*Page views*
2010			
November	341,126	226,588	1,059,278
December	250,923	171,795	759,666
2011			
January	334,900	228,759	1,054,555
February	318,673	219,825	990,315
March	377,111	253,939	1,175,637
April	475,118	303,909	2,446,704
May	658,459	416,453	2,944,271
June	740,339	466,246	3,335,665
July	922,657	572,291	4,253,138
August	963,358	599,997	4,672,639
September	1,007,543	635,718	4,404,860
October	1,116,774	690,820	5,080,780

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80716]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was created in June 2007 when some functions of the Home Office (probation, prisons and prevention of reoffending) were combined with those of the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA). We have therefore provided data for the MoJ, and the DCA and the relevant functions of the Home Office transferred to the MoJ prior to its creation.

The information provided only covers those judicial review applications where Treasury Solicitor (TSol) represented the Department. It does not include those matters that are dealt with directly by individual courts or tribunals, or those few in which TSol were not instructed. This information is not recorded centrally or in a manner that is easily retrievable and the cost of collating it would be disproportionate.

The following data from 2007 include MoJ Corporate and Headquarters, National Offender Management Service, HM Prison Service, Legal Services Complaints Commissioner, National Probation Service, Special Educational Needs Tribunal, Youth Justice Board and HM Courts and Tribunals Service when TSol have acted. Some cases included in the data commenced before the creation of MoJ but were carried across to the new Department as ongoing matters. For consistency those case data have been mapped across as appropriate.

An assumption has been made that the last parliamentary period began in May 2005 and ended in April 2010, a precise breakdown of information requested for the actual parliamentary dates would require more a detailed examination of the files which would incur disproportionate costs.

The number of judicial review applications against the MoJ and the areas of the Departments that were moved across to it opened by TSol in the applicable time periods are:

For the period May 2005 to April 2010: 2,316 judicial review case files were opened.

Since the creation of MoJ in May 2007 to April 2010: 1,675 judicial review case files were opened.

Since May 2010: 1,054 judicial review case files have been opened.

The outcome of judicial review applications is not recorded centrally and can not be provided without searching through each file individually which would incur disproportionate costs.

As of 15 November 2011 TSol had 874 open files relating to applications for judicial review against the Department. It should be noted that there is no correlation between this figure and the number of opened cases in any period.

Information on the legal costs of each application is not kept centrally or in a manner that can be easily broken down without searching through each file individually which would incur disproportionate costs.

The total costs for the cases on file with TSol include VAT, TSol fees, charges and disbursements but do not include costs of other parties or any damages paid. This information is not recorded centrally or in a manner that can be easily collated without incurring disproportionate costs.

Costs on the 2,316 cases opened between May 2005 and April 2010 are £11,778,598.

Since the creation of MoJ in May 2007, costs on the 1,675 cases opened to April 2010 are £7,753,116.

Since May 2010 costs for the 1,054 cases opened are £3,261,433.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees his Department had in each year since 1997. [80837]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since 1997 there has been a significant number of machinery of government changes, which resulted in the establishment of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007. These changes included the establishment of the Department of Constitutional Affairs from the Lord Chancellor's Department in June 2003; the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Service from the Magistrates Courts Service and the Court Service in April 2005; the setting up of the Tribunals Service from other Government Departments in April 2006; and the establishment of HM Courts and Tribunal Service in April 2011.

Along with the organisational changes, the management information systems and the data they hold have been subject to significant change. As a consequence, any information on numbers of staff in all the Department's predecessors for 1997 onwards can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, it is possible to provide recently published information on civil servants for the Ministry from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) website. The following links provide workforce statistics and profiles (including working patterns) for the Ministry and other Government Departments:

For March 2007 (table 12):

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pse/civil-service-statistics/2007/civil-service-statistics.xls

For March 2008 (table 35):

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pse/civil-service-statistics/2008/civil-service-statistics.xls

For March 2009 (table 42):

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pse/civil-service-statistics/2009/civil-service-statistics.xls

For March 2010:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pse/civil-service-statistics/2010-results/civil-service-statistics-2010-data-summary-tool.xls

For March 2011:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-229310

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average waiting time was between submission of an appeal against a decision on the award of disability living allowance and the date of the appeal hearing in each local authority area or at the lowest available recording level; [81022]

(2) how many people are awaiting a tribunal hearing after having been refused disability living allowance in each local authority area or at the lowest available recording area for the most recent period for which figures are available; [81023]

(3) how many people appealing against the withdrawal of disability living allowance have had the date of their appeal hearing brought forward on grounds of hardship in each local authority area or at the lowest available recording area for the most recent period for which figures are available. [81024]

Mr Djanogly: Data for the Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) tribunal cannot be provided by local authority area. All appeals to the tribunal are registered in the processing centre in the region where the appellant lives, and data can be broken down to the level of these processing centres.

The following table shows the average time from receipt at HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) to hearing for disability living allowance (DLA) appeals for the area served by each processing centre. The information covers 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

Disability living allowance appeals average waiting time by processing centre

Processing centre	*September 2011—Year to date (weeks)*
Birmingham (Central and Eastern England)	29.62
Cardiff (Wales and SW England)	21.02
Glasgow (Scotland)	22.53
Leeds (NE England—North and West Yorkshire)	25.98
Newcastle (NE England)	28.89
Liverpool (NW England)	28.26
Sutton (London and SE England)	22.39
All	25.59

Claimants can appeal to the tribunal on a number of different grounds, such as the rate of benefit awarded or refusal of benefit. The tribunal does not record the issue under appeal and, therefore, cannot isolate data relating to appeals on the basis of having been refused DLA. The total number of "live" DLA appeals (appeals at various stages of the process before hearing or decision) at 30 September 2011, the most recent period for which statistics have been published, was 42,600, down from 44,500 at the end of June 2011.

A regional breakdown of those data has not previously been published. As the management information system for SSCS is a live system which is continuously updated, it is not possible to provide retrospective data on the number of live cases by region which would be consistent with the official published statistics. I will, therefore, arrange for the numbers of live appeals in each area at end December to be provided to the right hon. Lady when those data are published as official statistics in March 2012.

The tribunal does not record the number of appeals rescheduled for an earlier hearing. Information on the number of people appealing against the withdrawal of disability living allowance that have had the date of their appeal hearing brought forward on grounds of hardship is, therefore, unavailable.

Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many members of his Department have been disciplined due to drug offences in the last 12 months; [80827]

(2) what his Department's policy is on mandatory drug testing of its employees. [80850]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Two employees in my Department were dismissed as a result of disciplinary action for drug offences in the 12 months ending 31 October 2011. Both of these were for bringing a controlled substance on to departmental premises.

My Department does not have a mandatory drugs testing policy for employees. However, it does have employee policies on drugs and alcohol. All employees are expected to report fit for work, and any indication that an employee had reported for work in an unfit state through drug abuse would be investigated. Being unfit for duty through drink or drug abuse is a breach of the required standards of conduct.

Drugs-related offences are regarded particularly seriously in disciplinary terms. Conviction of a criminal offence—or receipt of a police caution—for a drugs-related offence is considered gross misconduct. Drugs-related offences may result in dismissal even if the individual does not receive a custodial sentence.

Harassment: Convictions

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people prosecuted under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were convicted; and how many received a *(a)* custodial sentence, *(b)* fine and *(c)* non-custodial sentence in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [81407]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act and section 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, in England and Wales for the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 can be viewed in the following table.

Under section 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 a person is guilty of an offence of racially or religiously aggravated harassment if they commit an offence under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 which is racially or religiously aggravated (as defined in section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act, and section 32 of the Crime Disorder Act 1998, England and Wales, 2006-09[1, 2]

Statute/offence description	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[3]*
Section 2 Protection from Harassment Act 1997			
Offence of harassment			
Proceeded against	5,006	4,940	4,865
Found guilty	3,543	3,650	3,892
Sentenced[4]	3,566	3,671	3,893
Of which:			
Fine	367	410	553
Immediate custody	387	394	462
Community sentence	1,299	1,390	1,648
Suspended sentence	268	261	335
Other sentences[5]	1,245	1,216	895
Crime and Disorder Act 1998, S.32			
Racially aggravated offence of harassment			
Religiously aggravated offence of harassment			
Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment			

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act, and section 32 of the Crime Disorder Act 1998, England and Wales, 2006-09[1, 2]

Statute/offence description	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[3]*
Proceeded against	191	186	239
Found guilty	125	126	144
Sentenced[4]	127	128	145
Of which:			
Fine	17	21	16
Immediate custody	10	15	23
Community sentence	57	49	62
Suspended sentence	12	18	22
Other sentences[5]	31	25	22

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[5] Other sentences includes: absolute discharge, conditional discharge, and otherwise dealt with.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Insolvency: Fraud

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposed changes to *(a)* conditional fee arrangements and *(b)* after-the-event insurance on the effectiveness of measures to address fraud in insolvency cases. [81619]

Mr Djanogly: As I stated in my answer on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 183W, an updated impact assessment was published alongside the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill which includes provisions on the proposed reform of no win no fee conditional fee agreements. Officials are continuing to discuss the likely impacts of these changes in relation to insolvency proceedings.

Knives: Convictions

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* over 18 years were convicted for possessing a knife in 2010 in each police force area. [81623]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for having an article with a blade or point, by age group, and police force area in England and Wales, for the year 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Persons found guilty at all courts for offences of having a blade or article which was sharply pointed in a public place or on a school premises, by age group, and police force area, England and Wales, 2010[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*18 years and under*	*Number Over 18 years*
Avon and Somerset	29	130
Bedfordshire	19	59
Cambridgeshire	6	49
Cheshire	9	74
City of London	—	10
Cleveland	16	76
Cumbria	10	39
Derbyshire	14	71
Devon and Cornwall	25	116
Dorset	15	64
Durham	13	57
Essex	39	159
Gloucestershire	4	45
Greater Manchester	55	245
Hampshire	37	142
Hertfordshire	22	78
Humberside	24	91
Kent	19	93
Lancashire	27	163
Leicestershire	11	72
Lincolnshire	16	56
Merseyside	39	213
Metropolitan Police	493	1,034
Norfolk	18	88
North Yorkshire	17	55
Northamptonshire	13	73
Northumbria	51	220
Nottinghamshire	31	114
South Yorkshire	36	119
Staffordshire	24	78
Suffolk	12	45
Surrey	10	36
Sussex	20	103
Thames Valley	28	175
Warwickshire	5	20
West Mercia	21	93
West Midlands	79	268
West Yorkshire	26	159
Wiltshire	15	45
England	1,348	4,827
Dyfed-Powys	6	35
Gwent	14	49
North Wales	12	55
South Wales	40	154
Wales	72	293
England and Wales	1,420	5,120

[1] The figures given in this table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Offences used:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 s. 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 s.3—Having an article with blade or point in public place.
Criminal Justice Act 1988 s. 139A (1) and (5)(a) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 s.4 (1)—Having an article with blade or point on school premises.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* Libyan counterpart regarding the status of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi; [80852]

(2) how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails his Department has received on Abdelbaset al-Megrahi. [80832]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The release of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds was a matter for Scottish Ministers. I have had no discussions with either my Scottish or Libyan counterparts regarding his status.

My Department was recently a copy recipient of one letter regarding the status of Mr al-Megrahi. No e-mails have been received.

National Offender Management Service

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to establish a Head of the Probation Service within the National Offender Management Service. [81683]

Mr Blunt: As probation trusts are independent, arm's length bodies, operating under contract with the Secretary of State, a Head of Probation could not have the same functions as the Director of Probation performed under the earlier, centralised, arrangements.

However, we recognise that probation trusts need a consistent point of reference and representation within the National Offender Management Service. The new structure which began to be implemented in April 2011 includes a Director of Probation and Contracted Services, who is responsible not only for holding trusts to account against their contracts, but also for ensuring they have the support they need to be effective public sector providers.

Prisoner Escapes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have escaped from custody in each month for the last five years; and how many such prisoners escaped while being transferred between prisons; [80853]

(2) how many escaped prisoners have been returned to custody in each month of the last five years. [80854]

Mr Blunt: The number of escapes has been falling since 1995 when central records began. Table 1 shows the number of KPI[1] (key performance indicator) escapes, by month over the last five financial years from (a) prison establishment, (b) prison escort[2], and (c) contractor escort[3] (which includes escapes from court[4]). None of the escapes from escort occurred while transferring prisoners between prisons.

[1] A KPI escape is one where a prisoner is at liberty for 15 minutes or more before recapture, or an offence is committed during an escape lasting less than 15 minutes.

[2] A prison escort is an escort performed by prison staff, often to hospitals.

[3] A contractor escort is one undertaken on behalf of the National Offender Management Service by a contractor to a court, originating from either a police station or a prison, or transferring prisoners between prisons.

[4] Escapes from contractor escorts include escapes from court; the majority of contractor escapes are from insecure docks rather than escort vehicles.

Table 2 shows the number of prisoners recaptured per month having escaped from establishment or prison escort. Historically recapture details of prisoners escaping from contractor escorts are not held centrally in an easily retrievable format and details could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Following the establishment of new escort contracts and procedures in August this year prisoners recaptured following an escort escape are now recorded in an easily retrievable format.

Table 1: KPI escapes, by month and escape type, from April 2006 to March 2011

	Prison establishment	*Prison escort*	*Contractor escort*
June 2006	1	0	2
July 2006	0	1	2
August 2006	0	1	1
September 2006	1	1	3
October 2006	0	1	1
November 2006	0	1	2
December 2006	0	0	2
January 2007	0	1	1
February 2007	0	0	3
March 2007	0	0	2
April 2007	0	0	2
May 2007	0	0	1
June 2007	0	0	1
August 2007	1	0	3
September 2007	2	0	1
October 2007	0	1	2
November 2007	0	0	2
December 2007	0	0	1
January 2008	0	1	2
March 2008	1	0	1
April 2008	0	0	3
May 2008	0	1	1
June 2008	0	0	1
October 2008	0	1	2
November 2008	0	1	1
December 2008	0	0	3
January 2009	0	1	1
February 2009	0	0	1

Table 1: KPI escapes, by month and escape type, from April 2006 to March 2011

	Prison establishment	Prison escort	Contractor escort
March 2009	1	0	2
April 2009	0	1	0
May 2009	1	0	1
July 2009	1	0	1
September 2009	0	0	2
October 2009	0	0	3
November 2009	0	0	1
December 2009	0	1	0
January 2010	0	0	0
February 2010	0	0	3
March 2010	0	1	1
May 2010	0	1	2
June 2010	1	0	1
July 2010	0	0	2
August 2010	0	0	2
December 2010	0	0	1
January 2011	0	0	1
March 2011	0	0	1
Total	10	16	72

Note:
Months when there are zero escapes in all three categories are not shown.

Table 2: Number of prisoners recaptured following KPI escape from (a) prison establishment or (b) prison escort (but not contractor escort), by month of recapture from April 2006 to March 2011

	Number of prisoners recaptured
August 2006	3
November 2006	2
December 2006	1
January 2007	1
February 2007	1
March 2007	1
September 2007	1
October 2007	2
January 2008	2
August 2008	1
October 2008	1
November 2008	1
January 2009	3
April 2009	1
May 2009	1
July 2009	1
March 2010	1
May 2010	1
June 2010	1
December 2010	1
Total	27

Notes:
1. The table provides details of month of recapture and will not necessarily correlate to the month of escape for incidents shown in table 1.
2. Recaptured prisoners are shown only for escapes from prison establishment or prison escort. Details of those prisoners recaptured following escapes from contractor escort could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
3. Months when there are no recaptures are not shown.

Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders given custodial sentences since 10 August 2011 are serving their sentences in prison establishments operated by the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [81504]

Mr Blunt: As at 30 September 2011 there were 10,191 sentenced prisoners with a centrally recorded sentence start date of 10 August 2011 or later. Of these, 8,615 were held in prison establishments operated by the public sector and 1,576 were in prisons operated by the private sector.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the transfer of UK prisoners to foreign prisons. [80825]

Mr Blunt: The Council Framework Decision on the application of the principle of mutual recognition for judgments imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty will enter into force from December 2011; once implemented, this measure will help expedite the transfer of prisoners within the European Union. My right hon. Friend Lord McNally recently discussed the transfer of prisoners with the then Albanian Justice Minister, and my officials regularly discuss prisoner transfers with their European counterparts.

Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons he has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [80835]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In the last 12 months I have visited six prisons. These were:

Prison	Date
HMP High Down	November 2010
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	December 2010
HMP Wandsworth	December 2010

Prison	Date
HMP Doncaster	January 2011
HMP Preston	February 2011
HMP Cardiff	July 2011

Prisons: Employment

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving prisoners are working and earning a weekly wage of over *(a)* £100, *(b)* £150 and *(c)* £200. [81318]

Mr Blunt: Setting rates of pay for work done in prison is delegated to the governor and information on this is not routinely collected centrally. Prison Service Order (PSO) 4460 on prisoners' pay sets out the general parameters for local pay schemes including minimum rates of pay for various circumstances. The minimum employed rate is £4.00 per week. As well as work, prisoners are paid for participation in other constructive activity.

A one-off survey of prisoner pay was conducted in 2007 and found that the average rate of pay for activity inside prisons was £9.60 per week.

A small number of prisoners in open prisons are allowed to work outside the prison for resettlement purposes, subject to a risk assessment. A survey conducted in summer 2010 showed that there were 459 such prisoners. Rates of pay for prisoners working outside are a matter between the prisoner and the employer and are not routinely recorded by prisons.

Prisons: Uniform

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that prison officers are issued with *(a)* stab vests and *(b)* other personal protective equipment where necessary. [81413]

Mr Blunt: Stab resistant vests and other personal protective equipment are available to prison staff in circumstances where there is a particular risk that requires such equipment to be worn. Attacks on staff in prisons with bladed weapons are relatively rare and there are no plans to routinely equip all prison officers working in prisons with items such as stab-proof vests.

All prison officers are trained in control and restraint techniques and receive personal protection training. In addition, prison officers working in the adult male and young adult male closed prison estate are all equipped with batons for use as a defensive weapon.

Probation: Ex-servicemen

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation trusts have appointed a veterans link to ensure armed forces personnel are directed to relevant welfare agencies. [80032]

Mr Blunt: It is the responsibility of each probation trust to make arrangements to address the needs of offenders who have previously served in the armed forces. To date, 18 of the 35 probation trusts have appointed a veterans link. The remaining trusts are alive to the needs of ex-service personnel and are looking at ways to address them.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total value was of grants awarded by his Department through the Victims Fund to local sexual assault services in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [81247]

Mr Blunt: In 2010-11, the Combined Victims Fund, jointly funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Government Equalities Office, provided grants totalling £2.25 million to 52 voluntary sector organisations providing support for victims of sexual violence and abuse.

In 2011-12, we have committed £5.099 million in total to supporting victims of sexual violence through two funds:

The Rape Support Fund is providing £2.8 million to 65 existing rape support centres across England and Wales and £600,000 to develop four new rape support centres in Hereford, Trafford, Devon and Dorset.

The Victim and Witness General Fund is providing £1.699 million in grant funding this year to 34 voluntary sector organisations supporting victims of sexual violence in England and Wales.

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: Transport

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received in corporation tax from the transport sector in each year since 2001. [81326]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the liability for the transport sector for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2009-10. More recent data are not available.

Transport sector[1] corporation tax liabilities, United Kingdom, financial years

Financial year[2]	Corporation tax liability (£ million)[3]
2000-01	623
2001-02	676
2002-03	717
2003-04	779
2004-05	837
2005-06	819
2006-07	835
2007-08	793
2008-09	748
2009-10	627

[1] Summary Trade Classification categories Road Haulage, Sea Transport, and Other Transport and Storage.
[2] Comprises accounting periods ending within each financial year.
[3] Liability figures, especially for 2009-10, are subject to revision—for example as additional returns are received. Further information is available in the National Statistics publication on corporation tax available at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/ct-menu.htm

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77331]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury has not purchased any assets with a value of £250,000 or more since May 2010. The Department has assets under construction which will fall into this category once they have been capitalised. Those assets will be included in the Department's 2011-12 annual report and accounts, as appropriate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he receives any external funding for *(a)* his ministerial office and *(b)* his advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77593]

Miss Chloe Smith: No external funding is received for either the office or advisers of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff of his Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing EU competences. [79810]

Mr Hoban: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources.

Members of Her Majesty's Treasury staff contribute to a wide range of European issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Excise Duties: Rural Areas

Mark Menzies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that fuel duty and vehicle excise duty do not disproportionally affect the rural population. [81282]

Miss Chloe Smith: In a £1.9 billion package of support for motorists at Budget 2011 the Government applied to the European Commission for a rural fuel duty rebate pilot scheme, cut fuel duty, deferred the planned 2011-12 increase to January 2012, abolished the fuel duty escalator and replaced it with a fair fuel stabiliser, froze Vehicle Excise Duty for heavy goods vehicles in 2011-12 and limited the duty increase for all other motorists to inflation only.

G8: Borrowing

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the proportion of gross domestic product required to cover the necessary contribution of Government borrowing in each G8 country. [80625]

Miss Chloe Smith: The International Monetary Fund publishes information on the General Government Balance for a range of countries including the G8 countries in its Fiscal Monitor publication. The latest Fiscal Monitor, which was published in September 2011, can be found here:

http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fm/2011/02/pdf/fm1102.pdf

Inflation

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on consumer confidence of the recent rise in inflation. [81325]

Miss Chloe Smith: Consumer Prices Inflation was 5% in October, reflecting increases in energy and commodity prices. The Bank of England and external forecasters expect inflation to decline over the next 12 months. Lower inflation should support consumer confidence going forward.

Infrastructure: Costs

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of providing additional public infrastructure at existing standards to accommodate a rise in the number of UK residents of 10 million by 2033. [80635]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ealing Central and Acton (Angie Bray) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 184W.

Money Advice Service

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to ensure that the Money Advice Service fulfils a strategic oversight role for additional financial education; and if he will make a statement. [81241]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* As an independent body with a statutory function set out in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, it is for the Money Advice Service to determine how it delivers this function.

The service is undertaking a two-part research project. First to consolidate its understanding of existing evidence on the impact of educational practice within financial education, and similar interventions that seek to influence behaviour; and, second, to map the wide range of initiatives that are currently funded by the financial services industry. It expects to have completed this landscaping work by the end of June 2012. The service will then, on the basis of these findings, determine how best it may fulfil its overview role in this area.

NHS Trusts: Redundancy Pay

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* foundation and *(b)* non-foundation NHS trusts have had approval from his Department for employee pay-offs in each of the last five years; which such NHS trusts had the (i) largest such payment and (ii) largest number of such pay-offs in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [80896]

Danny Alexander: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Treasury's role is to ensure that individual special severance payments are fully justified in terms of value for money and legal risk.

Public Sector: Pensions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of public sector workers *(a)* of each gender and *(b)* in each age group will receive an increased pension as a result of moving to a career average from a final salary pension scheme; [79649]

(2) how many and what proportion of public sector workers *(a)* of each gender and *(b)* in each age group will receive an increased pension as a result of the offer on public sector pensions made by the Government on 2 November 2011. [79650]

Danny Alexander: The Command Paper "Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last" set out the Government's preferred scheme design for public service pensions. The next step is for trade unions to discuss this with the schemes and put forward any detailed alternatives which fall within the cost ceilings. The impact of the reforms on individual groups will depend on the final scheme designs agreed between the Government and trade unions.

As agreed with the trade unions, the Government will ensure that there is a full equality impact assessment before changes to public service pensions are implemented.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on public spending on public sector pensions *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a share of gross domestic product of implementing in full the preferred design for new pensions schemes in each of the next 10 years; [79657]

(2) with reference to Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last, what estimate he has made of the effect of implementing in full the preferred design for new pension schemes on savings to the Exchequer in each of the next 10 years. [79658]

Danny Alexander: The written answer I gave on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-44W, set out the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 forecast expenditure on public service pensions, and expected savings from the switch to CPI uprating and increasing employee pension contributions.

Changes proposed in the Command Paper "Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last" will only affect expenditure on public service pensions in the medium and long term. The paper set out the Government's objective that those public service workers who, as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to their current pension age, will see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age. Schemes and unions will discuss the fairest way of achieving this objective, within the Government's parameter that costs to the taxpayer in each and every year do not exceed the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts for public service pensions.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which trade union leaders were described by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the BBC Andrew Marr programme on 6 November 2011 as being strongly in favour of strike action over planned changes to public sector pensions; and if he will make a statement. [80391]

Danny Alexander: Most of the unions want to reach an agreement and discussions with interested parties regarding public service pension reform are ongoing.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of the use of the Consumer Prices Index including housing costs as the measure of indexation for the annual uprating of *(a)* benefits, *(b)* tax credits, *(c)* the second state pension and *(d)* public sector pensions; and if he will make a statement. [81616]

Danny Alexander: The Office for National Statistics is currently developing a measure of CPI including housing costs with a view to publishing this in early 2013. HM Treasury is therefore unable to comment on the merits of using any such measure at this point in time.

State Ownership

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the names are of all *(a)* state-owned enterprises and *(b)* companies in which there are state-owned shares. [81285]

Danny Alexander: There are currently 382 bodies which meet the classification of public corporations. A full list is published monthly on the website of the Office for National Statistics, and the most recent version can be found at the following link:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/na-classification/national-accounts-sector-classification/classification-update---october-2011/public-sector-classification-guide---october-2011.xls

The principal Government shareholdings are those managed by the Shareholder Executive and UK Financial Investments Ltd. Relevant details can be found on their websites:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/shareholderexecutive/structure/portfolio-unit

and

http://www.ukfi.co.uk/about-us/market-investments/

Students: Loans

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of public sector debt of the requirement for student loans to meet higher tuition fees in each of the next 10 years. [80193]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its assessment in November 2010 of the effect on the Government's net cash requirement of all student loans out to 2015-16 and the contribution within that from the higher tuition fee policy.

The following table reproduces the figures in the OBR's November 2010 Economic and Fiscal Outlook report.

Impact of student loans on central Government net cash requirement

£ billion

	All student loans (cost of net outlay)	Effect of new policies
2010-11	4.1	0.0
2011-12	4.3	0.0
2012-13	5.4	0.7
2013-14	7.3	2.5
2014-15	9.3	4.3
2015-16	10.7	5.6

In its July 2011 Fiscal Sustainability Report, the OBR published long-term projections of the impact of student finance arrangements on public sector net debt. However, these did not separate out the effect of the new fees regime from 2012-13 and were based on stylised loan assumptions beyond 2013-14. Their analysis demonstrated that the increase in debt would peak in the 2030s and then decline as loan repayments rise relative to the value of new loans.

Decisions are taken each year on the level of the tuition fee cap, tuition loans and maintenance loans for the next academic year. It is therefore not possible to conclude what the overall impact of student loans on public debt will be in each of the next ten years.

Tax Allowances: Manufacturing Industries

Mark Menzies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has considered introducing as part of his strategy for growth a 100% capital write-down allowance on new plant and equipment for the manufacturing sector. [81115]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), keeps all tax measures under review. Any proposals for new tax incentives would need to be considered in the context of the current fiscal position.

Taxation: Energy

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was received in taxation receipts from energy suppliers in each year since 1986. [81317]

Mr Gauke: Energy suppliers pay tax to HM Revenue and Customs under Climate Change Levy, Corporation Tax, Pay-As-You-Earn and National Insurance Contributions, Stamp Duty Land Tax, Stamp Taxes on shares and Value Added Tax. They also pay national non-domestic rates to local authorities.

Climate Change Levy is paid by energy suppliers. Annual receipts from Climate Change Levy since June 2001 are published on a monthly basis in table 2 of the Climate Change Levy Statistical Bulletin, which is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullclimate

Annual receipts for 2006-07 to 2008-09 for Home VAT for the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007 category, "Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply" are published in table 2.3 of the HMRC VAT factsheet (October 2009). This category is broader than just 'energy suppliers' and the figures will also cover other activities carried out by these traders, not just their supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning. The figures will also not capture activity by traders for whom energy supply is not their main business and who are classified under other SIC categories. The factsheet is available from the HMRC website at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

Home VAT refers to VAT charged on the supply of goods (and services) made by a VAT registered business in the UK. Estimates for calendar years 2004 and 2005 are available on a similar but older SIC code covering "Electricity, Gas, Steam and Hot Water Supply."

Total receipts for PAYE income tax and class 1 National Insurance contributions for the SIC 2003 category "Electricity, Gas and Water Supply" are shown in the following table. This category is broader than just 'energy suppliers' and the figures will relate to all economic activity of PAYE schemes within the sector, not just that related to supply of gas, electricity and water. In addition these figures will not include energy supplied by schemes whose main business is captured elsewhere within the SIC. The table shows total PAYE receipts for the Electricity, Gas and Water Supply sector. Figures are not available for years before 1999-2000.

Total receipts for PAYE income tax and class 1 National Insurance contributions in respect of employee and employer liabilities combined, for the electricity, gas and water supply sector (1999-2000 to 2010-11, years from May to April)

Sector	£ billion
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	
1999-2000	1.2
2000-01	1.2
2001-02	1.1
2002-03	1.1
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.1
2005-06	1.1
2006-07	1.3
2007-08	1.4
2008-09	1.5
2009-10	1.5
2010-11	1.6

Note:
PAYE IT and NICs class 1 figures are slightly incomplete in that some late payments are omitted. These late payments represent about 1% of the total, and do so fairly consistently from year to year, so comparisons between years are not significantly affected.

The following table on corporation tax liabilities shows the liabilities of companies within HMRC's Summary Trade Classification category "Production and Distribution of Electricity, Town Gas and Other Forms of Energy" for accounting periods ending in the financial years 1994-95 to 2009-10. Figures are not available for earlier years. As with PAYE and VAT, the figures presented will cover some economic activity by the companies included that is not connected with energy supply. In addition, some companies which supply energy as a minor part of their overall activity will be classified in other industry categories.

Energy Suppliers sector[1] corporation tax liabilities, United Kingdom, financial years

Financial year[2]	Corporation tax liability[3] (£ million)
1994-95	585
1995-96	570
1996-97	535

Energy Suppliers sector[1] corporation tax liabilities, United Kingdom, financial years

Financial year[2]	*Corporation tax liability[3] (£ million)*
1997-98	316
1998-99	333
1999-2000	428
2000-01	355
2001-02	396
2002-03	290
2003-04	318
2004-05	576
2005-06	680
2006-07	847
2007-08	922
2008-09	743
2009-10	1060

[1] Summary Trade Classification category Production and Distribution of Electricity, Town Gas and Other Forms of Energy.
[2] Comprises accounting periods ending within each financial year.
[3] Liability figures, especially for 2009-10, are subject to revision—for example as additional returns are received. Further information is available in the National Statistics publication on corporation tax available at:
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/menu.htm

Information on receipts paid by energy suppliers is not separately available for Stamp Duty Land Tax, Stamp Taxes on shares and national non-domestic rates.

Taxation: Gambling

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 204W, on taxation: gambling, what recent assessment he has made of the rate of gross profits tax levied on *(a)* bingo clubs and *(b)* bookmakers; and for what reasons there is a difference between the two. [80752]

Miss Chloe Smith: The rates of general betting duty and bingo duty were set by the previous Government. Bingo duty is charged at 20% of gross profits and general betting duty is charged at 15% of gross profits. The March 2011 Budget left rates unchanged. All taxes, including gambling taxes, are kept under review.

Taxation: Land

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a tax on the land value uplift created by the granting of planning permission on greenfield sites. [80762]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), keeps all taxes under review at the Budget.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aerials: Mobile Phones

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* she or *(b)* officials in her Department have discussed with HM Treasury using a proportion of the recently announced £150 million funding for infrastructure projects to improve mobile phone coverage. [79410]

Richard Benyon: In the course of discussions in the context of the growth review, I and my ministerial colleagues and officials have discussed with HM Treasury the funding of £150 million for improvements in mobile coverage, which was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 3 October 2011. We will be continuing to work with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Ofcom and HM Treasury to optimise the rural benefits of this funding.

Agricultural Wages Board

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effects of the abolition of the *(a)* Agricultural Wages Board and *(b)* agricultural minimum wage on the pay levels of farm workers in Wales who are within the remit of the Agricultural Wages Board; [75361]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effects of the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board on the rural economy in Wales; [75362]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects of the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board on the ease of recruitment of trained and skilled personnel to the farming industry in Wales; [75399]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effects of the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board on pay levels for children under 16 who work on farms in Wales. [75400]

Mr Paice: On the assumption that the Public Bodies Bill is given Royal Assent, DEFRA will carry out a public consultation on the future of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales. We intend to publish a full impact assessment and equality impact assessment on the effects of any abolition as part of the consultation exercise. DEFRA is currently discussing the position in Wales with the Welsh Government.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department undertook an impact assessment on the potential effects on wages of agricultural workers of the closure of the Agricultural Wages Board. [80902]

Mr Paice: On the assumption that the Public Bodies Bill receives Royal Assent, DEFRA will carry out a public consultation on the future of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, after that point. As part of that consultation we will publish an impact assessment and equality impact assessment on the effects of its proposed abolition.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of the Agricultural Wages Board in Wales. [80904]

Mr Paice: The Agricultural Wages Board (AWB) is a statutory body established under the Agricultural Wages Act 1948. The remit of the board extends to England and Wales. Independent members of the board (including the chairman) are appointed by the Secretary of State and by Welsh Ministers. The AWB's functions include an obligation to set a minimum wage rate for agricultural workers in England and Wales.

Agriculture

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to support farming in the tenanted sector. [80771]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to supporting farming in all sectors, including in the tenanted sector. Up to June 2011, a total of £237 million has been made available through the Rural Development Programme for England to improve the competitiveness of farm businesses and a further £425 million is being spent in 2011-12 on agri-environment schemes to support farmers to conserve and improve the natural environment. On 9 November I announced at the National Farmers Union Tenant Farmer Conference a new farming and forestry improvement scheme with up to £20 million available over the next two years to help fund small capital grants for business improvement.

I also set up the Farming Regulation Task Force, chaired by Richard Macdonald which has made a number of recommendations on how regulatory burdens on the industry might be reduced, and these include particular recommendations in respect of farm tenancies. I recently published an interim response on the Task Force Report setting out progress so far and a full response will be published early next year.

With specific regard to the tenanted farming sector, I have regular contact with members of the Tenancy Reform Industry Group, which provides advice to Ministers on tenancy related matters.

Agriculture: Young People

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to improve the image of the farming industry as a career option for young people. [80783]

Mr Paice: The Government are keen to promote the agriculture and food sectors as offering an exciting and successful career and to draw people towards the sector. DEFRA is working closely with the young farmers' organisations, the education sector and industry to raise awareness of rural issues, encourage young people to take up apprenticeships and other opportunities, and to further the development of skills and professionalism in the farming sector.

Air Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many zones and agglomerations exceeded *(a)* the exposure level of 20 micrograms/m_3 of $PM_{2.5}$ and *(b)* the limit value of 25 micrograms/m_3 of $PM_{2.5}$ set in the ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC) in each year since 2008; [80304]

(2) from what date she estimates all zones and agglomerations will achieve *(a)* the exposure level of 20 micrograms/m_3 of $PM_{2.5}$ and *(b)* the limit value of 25 micrograms/m_3 of $PM_{2.5}$ set in the ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC). [80305]

Richard Benyon: Targets for $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations became a legal requirement for the first time with the adoption of the 2008 ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC).

Compliance with the exposure concentration obligation of 20 micrograms^3 is assessed at a member state level. Based on the current calculation method and data from 2009 and 2010, the average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration across urban background locations is 12.8 micrograms^3. Earlier data are not available.

The limit value of 25 micrograms^3 applies throughout zones and agglomerations and must be met by 2015. In 2008, 2009 and 2010 all UK zones and agglomerations were in compliance with the limit value.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the merits of publishing a new national air quality strategy setting out the Government's plans for achieving NO_2 and PM_{10} limit values and long-term policies for achieving the best possible air quality; [80329]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to reduce NO_2 pollution in the UK to ensure that the limit values in the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) will be achieved in all 40 of the zones that exceeded the limit values in 2010 no later than 1 January 2015; and if she will make a statement. [80330]

Richard Benyon: Limit values for particulate matter are met across nearly all the UK apart from some small areas of London. The Government are working closely with the Mayor of London, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London to minimise the risk of further exceedences in London and expect to be compliant with limit values for particulate matter in 2011.

DEFRA published its air quality plans for the achievement of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) limit values in September this year. These summarise the plans and measures in place or to be put in place to achieve limit values for this pollutant in the shortest time possible. They also set out the time scale by which we expect to achieve compliance with limit values in all those zones where we currently exceed this limit value.

The Government continue to investigate available measures to hasten compliance with this limit value. We are keeping under review the need to revise or update our air quality strategy to achieve best possible results, taking into account economic circumstances and the availability of feasible measures.

Air Pollution: EU Law

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the Government's response to the European Commission's recent consultation on its review of EU air quality policy. [80307]

Richard Benyon: As part of its review of EU air quality policy, the European Commission launched informal questionnaires on 30 June 2011 seeking to collect views and experiences from all member states and stakeholders relating to the air quality directive (2008/50/EC) and the fourth daughter directive (2004/107/EC). We expect that

most member states will have responded. DEFRA has submitted a response and this is available on the Department's website.

Air Pollution: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's budget is for the air quality grant scheme in 2011-12. [80135]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has an air capital grant fund of £2 million allocated under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 for local projects to improve air quality. Details of the grants awarded this year are available on the "News" section of the DEFRA website in an article entitled "£2 million boost to tackle air pollution".

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have applied for funding under the air quality grant programme since its inception; and what assessment she has made of the contribution successful applicants will make to meeting the UK's nitrogen dioxide targets under the Ambient Air Quality Directive. [80136]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA (or its predecessor Departments) has operated an air quality grant scheme since 1997. Figures for the number of local authorities that applied in each of the years since 2001 are given in the following table; only district-level authorities are allowed to apply for this funding. Earlier figures are not available.

Financial year	*Number of local authorities*
2000-01	88
2001-02	82
2002-03	78
2003-04	92
2004-05	78
2005-06	69
2006-07	102
2007-08	126
2008-09	135
2009-10	133
2010-11	139
2011-12	120

Local authority air quality grant funding provides support to local authorities to carry out monitoring of local air quality, emissions modelling and air quality improvement measures. In recent years more of the available grant has been put to supporting air quality improvement measures, particularly on road transport pollution, including support for the delivery of communications projects, low emission zones, low emission strategies and other interventions. However, it is not possible to quantify the contribution this funding makes to meeting the UK's nitrogen dioxide targets under the ambient air quality directive.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the monetary value of benefits to public health for each pound spent on improving air quality. [80294]

Richard Benyon: A number of studies have been undertaken to assess the total costs and benefits of air quality controls. The most recent comprehensive assessment was the Evaluation of the Air Quality Strategy, a report presented to DEFRA in 2004.

This evaluated a range of air quality policies covering both industrial and transport measures. It estimated the total cost of the measures at £4 to £6 billion and the benefits at £14 to £69 billion, yielding a benefit cost ratio of between 2.3:1 and 17.2:1. It is important to note that it is not currently possible to quantify all the public health or environmental benefits of improved air quality.

Air Pollution: Roads

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many kilometres of road exceeded the limit value for nitrogen dioxide in the ambient air quality directive when the most recent measurements were taken. [80306]

Richard Benyon: Assessment of the number of kilometres of UK roads exceeding the limit value for nitrogen dioxide is made by mathematical modelling. For the 2010 calendar year the modelled road length that was assessed as exceeding the annual mean limit value was 4,280 km.

Air Pollution: Schools

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many schools in England are located within 150 metres of a road that exceeds World Health Organisation air quality guidelines for *(a)* particulate matter and *(b)* nitrogen dioxide; [80301]

(2) how many schools in each London borough are located within 150 metres of a road that exceeds World Health Organisation air quality guidelines for *(a)* particulate matter and *(b)* nitrogen dioxide; [80302]

(3) how many schools in England are located within 150 metres of a road that exceeds the limit values for *(a)* PM_{10} and *(b)* nitrogen dioxide in the ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC). [80303]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold information about the location of schools in England in relation to roadside exceedences of World Health Organisation air quality guidelines, or in relation to air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide or particulate matter in the ambient air quality directive.

Bees

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on implementation of the healthy bees plan. [80297]

Mr Paice: Since the Healthy Bees Plan was launched in April 2009, the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), on behalf of DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government, has been working in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to deliver the plan's objectives to improve honey bee health. This work has included:

improving and raising the profile of the National Bee Unit's BeeBase database as a key resource for beekeepers. Over 25,000 beekeepers are now registered compared with 17,000 in 2008;

supporting education and training of beekeepers to improve their husbandry skills. As part of this work, FERA has co-funded an education initiative with the British Beekeepers' Association and the National Diploma in Beekeeping;

the development of an action plan by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to increase the availability of authorised medicines for honey bees and to ensure their correct use; and

improving our understanding of the health status of honey bees through the Random Apiary Survey undertaken by the National Bee Unit.

Further details of the implementation of the Healthy Bees Plan are available on the National Bee Unit's BeeBase website.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in her Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80058]

Richard Benyon: Details of Cabinet Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be accessed on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/ministers/transparency/

Since May 2010 no DEFRA Minister, senior departmental official or special adviser has met with associates of the Bell Pottinger Group or any of its subsidiaries. Further detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Climate Change: Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect black carbon has on climate change; and if she will make a statement. [80295]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker), on 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 406W.

Crayfish

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the damage caused by North American signal crayfish; and what steps her Department is taking to control such crayfish. [80848]

Richard Benyon: Research shows that signal crayfish have an impact on both the physical nature of aquatic habitats through burrowing (causing siltation and erosion) and on a range of fauna and flora. The most noted impact is on the native white-clawed crayfish, but effects on other invertebrates and fish species have also been recorded. A preliminary assessment of ecosystem health under the water framework directive indicates that 51 riverine water bodies in England (out of 5,818 in England and Wales) are likely to fail to achieve 'good ecological status' because of signal crayfish.

Currently there are no effective methods available for reducing the scale of the signal crayfish population in England, and DEFRA has commissioned research to develop such techniques. Until effective management tools become available, efforts are mainly focused on limiting the spread of the species to new habitats and on the conservation of native species, such as by the establishment of refuge sites for white clawed crayfish.

DEFRA is also working with the Scottish and Welsh Governments to develop a strategy throughout Great Britain for managing non-native crayfish and their impacts.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the effectiveness of policing of dangerous dogs. [81046]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has received a considerable amount of correspondence on dangerous dogs, some of which relates to the enforcement of the legislation.

Consultants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures her Department uses when engaging external consultants. [73102]

Richard Benyon: The core Department, in line with Government spending controls, ensures that all requirements for potential consultancy contracts are approved at the appropriate level prior to procurement commencing.

The approvals process applies to all expenditure relating to consultancy, both new contracts and extensions or variations to existing contracts. The procedures are as follows:

Approval to proceed before any procurement starts must be obtained for all business critical needs for consultancy services. The business case is completed and authorised by the business area director and sent to the procurement and contracts function.

Expenditure under £20,000: approval will be required from DEFRA's head of procurement.

Expenditure of £20,000 and over for a period of up to nine months: approvals will be required from the DEFRA head of procurement, DEFRA commercial director and the permanent secretary.

Expenditure of £20,000 and over for a period exceeding nine months: approvals will be required from the DEFRA head of procurement, DEFRA HR director, DEFRA finance director, DEFRA commercial director, permanent secretary, the nominated departmental Minister and the Cabinet Office/Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG).

Once the relevant approval has been received, engagement of external consultants follows the departmental procurement procedures which are in line with Government and European Union procurement regulations.

Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75000]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA spent £327,975.64 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11.

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget was for the *(a)* infectious diseases: animal and plant, *(b)* flooding and *(c)* food and water work stream of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79506]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has four work streams under the Capabilities programme: Animal Disease; Flooding; Food Supply; and Water Supply. Plant Disease is not a work stream within this programme. Budgetary spend since 2005 is:

£

Financial year	*Animal Disease*	*Flooding*	*Food*	*Water*
2005/06	[1]—	[2]—	67,500	105,000
2006/07	[1]—	[2]—	69,000	110,000
2007/08	5,360,000	[2]—	71,000	115,000
2008/09	6,263,000	142,269	73,000	120,000
2009/10	3,366,800	157,800	75,000	120,000
2010/11	4,499,000	2,445,281	75,000	100,000

[1] Data not readily available
[2] No spend until 2008-09

These figures do not include expenditure by the Environment Agency or local authorities on the delivery of flood defences or expenditure made directly by the water industry on resilience and security measures; both of which support the objectives of the Capabilities programme.

DEFRA has not yet finalised provision for the work streams for future financial years.

Ministerial Meetings

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the departmental diary of each Minister in her Department since May 2010. [80775]

Richard Benyon: As has been the practice of previous Administrations, information relating to Ministers' diaries is not normally disclosed. Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and are available on our website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/ministers/transparency/

Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by her Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79574]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by her Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79575]

Richard Benyon: Statistics on parliamentary questions (PQs) for written answer on a named day can be found in the following table:

	Number of named day PQs received	*On time*	*1-5 days late*	*6-10 days late*	*11-20 days late*	*21-30 days late*	*Over 30 days late*
2010							
May	10	5	4	0	1	0	0
June	42	32	10	0	0	0	0
July	67	50	15	2	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	23	20	3	0	0	0	0
October	46	35	11	0	0	0	0
November	60	34	21	2	3	0	0
December	38	16	20	2	0	0	0
2011							
January	49	30	13	1	0	2	3
February	92	28	33	15	14	2	0
March	76	36	28	1	11	0	0
April	27	15	11	1	0	0	0
May	38	20	12	1	4	1	0
June	40	17	20	1	1	0	1
July	41	11	22	4	2	0	2
August	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
September	29	13	13	1	0	2	0
October	14	1	9	4	0	0	0

No named day parliamentary questions have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010; 13 ordinary written questions have remained unanswered for that period.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Droughts

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has made an assessment of trends in the incidence of drought in *(a)* England and *(b)* the west midlands. [81242]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has assessed trends in the incidence of drought across England and Wales. Droughts are complex events, varying in severity, spatial extent and their impacts on society and the environment.

Analysis of historical events shows a varied range of rainfall and associated river flow droughts over the last century. The drought of 1975-76 remains the most notable extreme event within that record, and although there have been significant droughts since, with many clustered in the last 20 years, there is no clear trend in the incidence of drought either for England overall or the west midlands.

The historical record provides a testing range of conditions for which both the Environment Agency and water companies plan.

Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding will be provided to support the Green Infrastructure Partnership. [80299]

Richard Benyon: The Green Infrastructure Partnership will be supported by existing DEFRA policy and research resources. DEFRA is working with civil society and professional bodies to promote the evidence of the benefits of green infrastructure, and also to provide some of the evidence, advice and valuation tools that local areas need to effectively plan for and deliver it.

Environment Protection: British Overseas Territories

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress has been made on the implementation of the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy; what further steps she plans to take to implement the strategy; and if she will make a statement; [80123]

(2) how much of her Department's budget for biodiversity conservation was spent in British Overseas Territories in 2010-11; [80124]

(3) how much of her Department's budget for biodiversity conservation will be spent in British Overseas Territories in each year up to 2014-15; [80125]

(4) whether the Government's target on biodiversity will apply to British Overseas Territories; and if she will make a statement; [80126]

(5) whether her submission to the Prime Minister on her Department's priorities for providing support to British Overseas Territories will include measures to protect and restore biodiversity; [80127]

(6) how many staff in her Department were working full-time on UK Overseas Territories biodiversity policy in each of the last five years. [80308]

Richard Benyon: Following agreement of the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy in 2009, DEFRA has taken the lead in coordinating a partnership of Government Departments overseeing its implementation. This partnership comprises DEFRA, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID), and is supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). As part of this partnership, DEFRA established the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group (OTBG), comprising officials from DEFRA, the FCO, DFID, JNCC and the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA). Chaired by DEFRA, the OTBG is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the strategy.

In terms of delivering the objectives set out in the strategy, formal contact points on biodiversity matters have been established in the territories and, in addition to securing more inclusive UK reporting to multilateral environmental agreements, DEFRA hosted a workshop in September 2011 to improve communication and knowledge of the obligations related to the membership of such agreements. I can report that, by June 2011, 38 discrete projects and/or activities in 10 Overseas Territories have been funded that address four of the strategic priorities of the strategy.

Looking ahead, DEFRA will continue to liaise closely with other Government Departments, inter alia through the OTBG, as well as directly with Overseas Territories and with the UKOTA, to offer such advice and assistance as is within our purview and is appropriate.

Funding amounting to over £1.2 million was spent on biodiversity in Overseas Territories in 2010-11. This comprised a contribution of £200,000, announced by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), at last year's Nagoya Biodiversity Conference, towards rodent eradication on the World Heritage site of Henderson Island in the Pitcairn group of islands, which hosts many endangered species of birds, including the Henderson petrel. It also comprised a figure of just over £1 million from DEFRA's Darwin Initiative for the period 2010-11 towards projects in the Overseas Territories. We are continuing to welcome project proposals for Darwin funding from the territories. Since the Darwin Initiative is now being co-funded by DEFRA and DFID, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs also announced at the Nagoya Biodiversity Conference that funding under Darwin would in fact increase over the spending review period. In addition to this £1.2 million, the JNCC also contributed £150,000 during 2010-11,

and a further £10,000 was committed by DEFRA on research and development projects within the Overseas Territories. In view of the current financial climate it is not possible to predict how much will be spent on biodiversity conservation measures in Overseas Territories in future.

As the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs reported previously to Parliament, a new global biodiversity target for 2020 was agreed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in October 2010. The Aichi Targets apply to those Overseas Territories to which the Convention on Biological Diversity has been extended.

DEFRA's submission to the Prime Minister on our current and future priorities for providing support to the Overseas Territories will include measures relating to biodiversity.

Finally, turning to the level of staff resource within DEFRA which is committed to working on issues associated with the Overseas Territories over the last five years, it is impossible to be precise. While there is no dedicated service towards supporting work in the Overseas Territories, there are a number of officials who regularly provide advice to the Overseas Territories on a range of issues on which DEFRA leads.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government's Overseas Territories White Paper will include a target to halt loss of biodiversity in the overseas territories. [80128]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The White Paper on the Overseas Territories will be published in 2012. It is too early to comment on what will be included.

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff of her Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing EU competences. [79808]

Richard Benyon: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ministerial-level meetings have been held in her Department as part of the Government's examination of the balance of existing EU competences. [79809]

Richard Benyon: The Department routinely hosts ministerial meetings on issues covered in the coalition agreement.

Fish Farming

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the sustainability of fish farms. [75074]

Richard Benyon: The Department's policy decisions on fish farms are guided by our Business Plan commitments which include encouraging sustainable food production. There is legislation in place on a number of relevant issues, including fish welfare, environmental protection and consumer safety which are continually assessed. All fish farms must be authorised by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, a DEFRA agency, and the conditions include aspects of sustainability.

In addition to this, DEFRA is currently working with the aquaculture industry, looking at ways in which it can develop in England. Assessing the sustainability of fish farms will be a key aspect of this work.

Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how funding through the new Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding arrangement will be focused on those communities at greatest risk. [80290]

Richard Benyon: The new partnership funding arrangements for flood and coastal erosion risk management will offer funding towards schemes in direct relation to the flood risk benefits being delivered, and this will be greater in areas where risks are more significant.

Those most at risk and living in the most deprived parts of the country will continue to be the focus for Government support.

Flood Control

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of her proposed changes to flood defences on the ability of property and landowners to maintain adequate insurance cover in respect of flooding. [81307]

Richard Benyon: The new arrangements for partnership funding of flood defences are designed to target funding towards those most at risk and in more deprived communities. Partnership funding enables cost savings and local contributions that will mean more communities can enjoy the benefits that flood defences bring. As such the new arrangements should contribute to ensuring that flood insurance continues to be as widely available as possible.

Floods: Insurance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what meetings she has had with representatives of the insurance industry to discuss replacement of the Statement of Principles on the provision of flood insurance; and if she will publish the minutes of those meetings; [80287]

(2) what will replace the Statement of Principles on the provision of flood insurance after it expires in 2013. [80288]

Richard Benyon: In the light of the second flood insurance summit held with stakeholders in July, both Government and insurers are working closely together to ensure that flood insurance continues to be widely available.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), recently met the Association of British Insurers to discuss arrangements after the current Statement of Principles agreement comes to an end in July 2013, and plans to issue a progress update shortly.

Food: Waste

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to review current legislation to enable water companies to accept food waste from external sources to allow for an increase in the levels of energy production from anaerobic digestion plants. [81233]

Richard Benyon: Water companies can already accept food waste from external sources.

In June, the Government published their Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan, which sets out what needs to be done to bring about an increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion. As part of the Action Plan, DEFRA will work with the Environment Agency to clarify the regulatory position on co-digestion of waste with sewage sludge at sewage treatment works.

DEFRA will also discuss with Ofwat the recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading's market study that looked at competition in the treatment of organic waste and, in particular, the sewage sludge treatment sector.

Inland Waterways: Dredging

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the length of waterways managed by British Waterways that require dredging; and what the cost would be of carrying out such dredging; [80685]

(2) what estimate she has made of the length of British Waterways' canals and rivers to be dredged in 2011-12. [80686]

Richard Benyon: Dredging is an operational matter for British Waterways (BW) and it applies risk based prioritisation to its maintenance expenditure. The Government require BW to operate and maintain waterways to standards that reflect use and prospects of use.

BW undertakes regular waterway channel depth surveys to identify which stretches of its canals fail to meet the minimum depth to enable reasonable navigation in a location. Around 287 kms of the 3,000 km network currently do not meet the criteria and consequently require dredging. The cost of undertaking this dredging would be around £40 million.

BW plans to dredge, at a cost of £4.2 million, 45 km of canals and rivers in 2011-12, and in addition will spend £1.2 million on various high priority locations that have been identified as creating particular boating constraints.

Land Drainage: Urban Areas

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to issue her consultation on sustainable urban drainage systems and surface water systems at the same time as her foul sewer consultation. [81069]

Richard Benyon: The consultations have separate timetables. However, we plan to align our stakeholder communications on both issues and also consultation workshops on key aspects of the policies.

Marine Conservation Zones

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the classification of marine protected areas in England. [80133]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the application of the precautionary principle to the designation of marine conservation zones. [80134]

Richard Benyon: No decisions have yet been taken on the designation of marine conservation zones (MCZs) recommended by the regional projects. It is important that we have an adequate evidence base if we are to create successful well-managed MCZs. Nonetheless, I do not rule out taking precautionary action where this would be appropriate.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will issue a public consultation on the marine conservation zones proposed by the regional stakeholder projects. [80148]

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will hold a public consultation on all prospective marine conservation zones sites recommended by regional stakeholder-led projects. [81133]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will hold a three-month public consultation on marine conservation zones (MCZ) by the end of 2012. This consultation will include all sites recommended by the regional MCZ projects, with clarity on how and when work on them will be taken forward. It is envisaged that the first MCZ designations will take place in 2013.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and, Rural Affairs if she will consider designating additional marine conservation zones to help protect *(a)* basking sharks, *(b)* dolphins and *(c)* other mobile species. [80149]

Richard Benyon: The Government's view is that spatial protection mechanisms are not always, in isolation, the most effective way of protecting highly mobile species. However, protecting some habitats important to mobile species can aid their conservation as part of wider, more bespoke protection measures that can be applied across all or parts of their range, and where appropriate marine conservation zones (MCZs) could be used to protect these habitats.

DEFRA is in the process of commissioning an independent review of the current science on the merits of protecting mobile species through MCZs, and an assessment of the extent to which the regional project recommendations support the protection of mobile species and birds. Where evidence shows that a mobile species could be effectively protected by an marine protected area (MPA), and that there is a gap in the MPA network (looking at the network as a whole and considering special protection areas, special areas of conservation and MCZ contributions), this may be signalled in the public consultation documentation and suggestions for filling the gap considered by DEFRA, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

In addition, DEFRA will continue to develop bespoke management measures for the protection of vulnerable mobile species, such as acoustic deterrents to reduce dolphin bycatch and fisheries protection for endangered sharks.

Motor Vehicles: Sales

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to prevent commercial vehicle traders from posing as private individuals to sell vehicles on public highways. [81657]

Richard Benyon: It is an offence under section 3 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to offer for sale two or more vehicles, as part of a business, within 500 metres of each other on a road or roads.

This is enforced by local authorities, which can issue a fixed penalty notice of £100 to offenders, or take action through the courts. Section 5 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act introduces personal liability for directors and officers of a company for these offences.

Natural Capital Committee

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when she expects to establish the Natural Capital Committee; [80121]

(2) whether the Natural Capital Committee will be required to report to Parliament annually on the condition of natural capital in the UK. [80122]

Richard Benyon: The Government announced in the Natural Environment White Paper that they will establish an independent Natural Capital Committee, reporting to the Economic Affairs Cabinet Committee which is chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne). The Committee will advise the Government on the state of English natural capital. As set out in the White Paper, the Committee will: provide advice on when, where and how natural assets are being used unsustainably; advise the Government on how they could prioritise action to protect and improve natural capital, so that public and private activity is focused where it will have greatest impact on improving wellbeing in our society; and, advise the Government on research priorities to improve future advice and decisions on protecting and enhancing natural capital. The Committee will be set up initially for the duration of this Parliament; the work of the Committee will be available to Parliament and will be set out in a series of reports. I will shortly be recruiting the chair and members of the Committee and I have issued a written ministerial statement on the process of establishing the Committee this week.

Photography

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on photography by her Department since May 2010. [80271]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not hold a central record which would identify how much has been spent on photography alone and cannot therefore provide an accurate figure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with those responsible for implementing the welfare of laying hens directive in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland on likely levels of non-compliance with the directive from 1 January 2012; what data her Department holds on likely levels of non-compliance; and if she will publish such data. [79134]

Mr Paice: The Government are in frequent contact with all the devolved Administrations regarding the implementation of the directive and the need to protect producers across the UK who have invested in new systems. Inspectors from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), the agency responsible for enforcing the conventional cage ban in Great Britain, are visiting all known cage producers in England, Scotland and Wales. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development officials in Northern Ireland are also contacting and visiting producers to determine levels of compliance. Officials are reminding producers of the need to comply with the conventional cage ban when it comes into force at the end of the year and at the same time finding out producers' intentions, as to whether they will cease production or convert to alternative systems.

In addition, DEFRA commissioned ADAS to prepare the last in a series of reports to provide an update of the progress that the UK egg industry has made towards achieving full compliance with the legislation as at 1 September 2011 and any likely barriers in the way. This has now been completed.

The Government will be taking a tough enforcement approach on any UK producer who has not complied by the deadline.

Ragwort

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the potential benefits of ragwort to invertebrate biodiversity. [80843]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA recognises that where there is no threat to animal welfare, common ragwort provides many benefits to biodiversity; in particular, it supports a variety of invertebrates, such as moth caterpillars, including the Cinnabar moth, as well as thrips, plant bugs, flies, beetles and mites.

Recycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the possible benefits of slurry recycling. [75076]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is funding research which evaluates the application of slurry on to land and looks at looks at the impact of changes to manure management practices. This work is part of an integrated approach to help farmers manage their nutrients as effectively as possible and to tackle diffuse pollution from agriculture.

The application of organic manures (which include cattle and pig slurry) to agricultural land is important in improving soil fertility and productivity. The efficient use of manures is one element of an approach to more closely match crops' needs, and capacity to use nutrients, to supply. It also helps to reduce farmers' synthetic fertiliser costs: for example, every tonne of nitrate applied as slurry when plants need it can lead to savings on a farm's fertiliser bill of £345 (or £1,000 per tonne of nitrogen).

In addition, the benefits of efficient manure application extend to significant reductions of environmental pollutants such as greenhouse gas emissions, ammonia emissions to air, and nitrate-N emissions to water.

Rural Areas: Broadband

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to meet the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to discuss support for the roll-out of rural broadband in the next three months. [80785]

Richard Benyon: Access to broadband in rural areas is a key priority for DEFRA. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), is in regular and ongoing discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), on the roll-out of broadband to rural areas.

Rural Areas: Economic Growth

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she has had on economic growth in rural communities since May 2010. [80776]

Richard Benyon: Supporting sustainable economic growth in rural areas has been a priority for DEFRA since this Government took office. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has had regular meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on this and other issues since May 2010. She is currently leading the Rural Economy strand of the Government's Growth Review, which focuses on the practical steps that can be taken to enable rural economies to thrive and make a greater contribution to national growth.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss steps to support development in rural communities in the next three months. [80777]

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on encouraging growth in rural areas. [81121]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has regular meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on the Growth Review and other issues. She has been leading the rural economy strand of the review which is focused on how the Government can best support strong economic growth in rural communities.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials are working on her Department's Rural Economy Growth Review. [81425]

Richard Benyon: The core project team working on the Rural Economy Growth Review within DEFRA is made up of 6.3 full-time equivalent staff. Other officials in both DEFRA and other Government Departments also contribute to the work as necessary.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have attended on the Rural Economy Growth Review; and on what dates. [81426]

Richard Benyon: Since its launch in June 2011, DEFRA has been leading the rural economy strand of the Government's Growth Review. Ministers and officials in the Department have had numerous meetings as part of the review.

Rural Enterprise Zones

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on rural enterprise zones. [81120]

Richard Benyon: Since June 2011, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has been leading the rural economy strand of the Growth Review, which is focused on supporting strong economic growth in rural communities. As part of this the Government are considering a variety of innovative ways in which rural businesses can be supported, including through the work of local enterprise partnerships.

Sewers

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to issue the consultation on the mandatory adoption arrangements and the mandatory build standards for new gravity foul sewers and lateral drains. [81070]

Richard Benyon: Proposals to consult on mandatory adoption arrangements, and the mandatory build standards for new gravity foul sewers and lateral drains, are currently undergoing final internal government clearances. Subject to these clearances, the consultation launch is planned for December 2011.

Sewers: Urban Areas

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding is available to local authorities for the costs of maintaining sustainable urban drainage systems. [80291]

Richard Benyon: Funding for the maintenance of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) by local authorities is agreed with a developer or another party, typically using a Section 106 agreement from the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

However, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 includes a new duty for unitary and county local authorities, acting as SuDS approving bodies, to approve drainage systems in new developments and adopt those that serve more than one property.

The Government recognise that once commenced this will be a new burden on local authorities and in the short-term we will fund the maintenance of drainage systems approved and subsequently adopted. We are also committed to finding a long-term solution for the maintenance of SuDS and we are currently exploring options.

SSSIs

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria she requires *(a)* priority habitats and *(b)* sites of special scientific interest to meet for them to be assessed as being in favourable condition. [81183]

Richard Benyon: There are no comprehensive criteria for assessing favourable condition of priority habitats in England. Criteria have been developed for specific habitats where national surveys have been completed (lowland grassland, lowland heathland and upland priority habitats). There are plans to develop a more comprehensive set of criteria to enable progress against the Biodiversity 2020 habitat outcomes to be measured.

Assessment of favourable condition on sites of special scientific interest is based on criteria set out in Common Standards Monitoring Guidance, administered by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

SSSIs: Planning Permission

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the *(a)* British Association of Shooting and Conservation, *(b)* Countryside Alliance and *(c)* other bodies on (i) the potential effect of planning law on sites of special scientific interest and (ii) the protected status of those sites. [81179]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has had no meetings with these organisations specifically to discuss planning law in relation to sites of special scientific interest.

Supermarkets: Competition

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with supermarket chains on the creation of a supermarket ombudsman. [80233]

Mr Paice: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills leads on the creation of the Grocery Code Adjudicator.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has not therefore held any particular recent discussions with supermarket chains on this issue.

Sussex Emerald Moth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect the Sussex Emerald Moth. [80842]

Richard Benyon: The Sussex Emerald Moth is fully protected under schedule 5 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is listed as a species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. It is one of England's rarest moths, known from just two sites in Kent, with its stronghold at Dungeness. In recent years, the decline of the Sussex Emerald has been halted and Natural England is working with the RSPB, Butterfly Conservation, and major landowners to increase the population within and around Dungeness through habitat creation.

Trees: Disease Control

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding will be allocated to implement the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan; and if she will provide a breakdown of how this will be spent. [80296]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is allocating £7 million from existing evidence resources as additional funding for new research into tree health over the next three years, and is also working with partners and stakeholders to take forward further research. Projects will be identified following open competition. The bidding process is being developed and will be announced as soon as possible.

Resource Efficiency

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department provided to *(a)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(b)* the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme in each of the last five years. [80300]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the amount of DEFRA funding provided to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

		£ million
	WRAP	*NISP*
2007-08	58.8	8.0
2008-09	42.6	5.0
2009-10	54.6	5.5

Since April 2010, the seven bodies previously funded separately by DEFRA to provide advice and support on resource efficiency (including WRAP and NISP) were integrated under the umbrella of WRAP to provide a single source of expertise on material resource efficiency. The NISP is currently delivered by International Synergies Ltd through a contract with WRAP.

In 2010-11 the amount of funding provided to WRAP was £49 million.

The 2011-12 budget allocated to WRAP is £34.7 million.

Waste Disposal: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much she estimates will need to be spent on new treatment facilities for municipal solid waste in England for the UK to meet its landfill diversion targets. [80298]

Richard Benyon: The EU landfill directive sets targets to reduce the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill to 50% of 1995 levels by 2013 and 35% of 1995 levels by 2020.

The current HM Treasury National Infrastructure Plan estimates that delivering the required infrastructure using private finance initiative funding would amount to £95 million per year from 2014-15 and £120 million per year by 2017-18.

Water Companies: Employment

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the five-year asset management planning cycle on employment in the water industry and its supply chain. [81181]

Richard Benyon: Water and sewerage companies and water-only companies are responsible for their own investment programmes, including employment matters. As private companies, they have to decide how best to deliver safe and secure water supplies to their customers.

Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales. In October 2006, it published its conclusions from its consultation 'Setting water and sewerage price limits: is five years right?' In this, Ofwat said that there was support for continuing to set price limits at the 2009 price review for five years. At the 2009 price review, Ofwat asked companies, for the first time, to prepare 25 year strategic direction statements, which would help plan for the longer term.

Ofwat is due to publish its 'Future Price Limits Framework' consultation in late November which, among other things, is seeking views on how to create sectors that take a longer term approach to business planning. It is thought that this longer term approach will help to prevent future peaks and troughs within the investment cycles.

Water Companies: Manpower

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in the water sector and its supply chain in each of the five years of the 2004 price review. [80292]

Richard Benyon: Employment levels across the UK's water sector and its supply chain are not measured on a consistent basis. However, Ofwat, British Water and Energy and Utility Skills have provided the following estimates of employment within the UK's water industry and its supply chain over the 2004 price review period:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Water/sewerage companies	37,000	37,500	37,500	38,000	38,000
Supply chain	60,000	80,000	100,000	80,000	60,000
Total	97,000	117,500	137,500	118,000	98,000

Water Supply

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has given any consideration to encouraging water trading between UK water companies. [81125]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has given considerable consideration to encouraging water trading between UK water companies. The Department commissioned research into the barriers to trading and this was published in September 2010 as 'Assessment of regulatory barriers and constraints to effective interconnectivity of water supplies'. This research will inform the Water White Paper.

Water: EU Law

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has any plans to assess whether the water

framework directive could be implemented *(a)* more cost-effectively and *(b)* in a more environmentally friendly way. [81234]

Richard Benyon: The water framework directive is founded on sustainable development principles. It incorporates a requirement to assess the costs and benefits of alternative approaches to achieving its aims and to select the most cost-effective combination of measures. In addition, it allows the cost of achieving the environmental objectives set for our water bodies to be phased over three planning cycles ending in 2027, if it is disproportionately expensive to achieve the objectives it sets by the default deadline of 2015. In England, river basin management plans for the first cycle 2009-15 envisage that the percentage of water bodies achieving good status will increase from 26% to 30%. The Environment Agency aims to achieve an additional 2% improvement in that period as the result of the many investigations that are being carried out to provide the evidence needed to identify appropriate action.

The Environment Agency is working closely at the local level with a range of partners, including water companies, farmers, land managers and voluntary organisations, to develop and drive forward the new catchment management approach announced in March this year. This involves building understanding of the complex interactions between land and water, developing measures to address water pollution at source, and securing multiple benefits such as reduced treatment of drinking water, improved habitat for wildlife and more sustainable flood risk management, while lessening reliance on expensive and carbon intensive end-of-pipe solutions.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the deployment of emergency care assistants; and whether he plans to put in place safeguards to ensure they will not be used as substitutes for qualified paramedics. [81149]

Mr Simon Burns: Decisions on deployment of ambulance service personnel are a local, operational matter for ambulance trusts. There is a duty of care on these trusts to ensure that the response they send to the patient can provide the appropriate level of care. Where patients need a paramedic, one should be dispatched.

Emergency care assistants are not trained to have any diagnostic or therapeutic intervention function, and so only in exceptional cases will not be accompanied by a paramedic. In such exceptional circumstances, an emergency care assistant may be dispatched with an emergency medical technician or another emergency care assistant, but this would only be as backup to a paramedic rapid response vehicle, or as a first response, with paramedic back-up dispatched as required.

Alcohol and Drugs Misuse

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to respond to the letter of 3 November 2011 from Sir Michael Scholar of the UK Statistics Authority concerning *(a)* the statistics on substance misuse among young people and *(b)* statistics from the National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System; and if he will make a statement. [81624]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), intends to respond shortly and will lay a copy of the statement before Parliament.

Blood: Donors

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many schools and sixth form colleges in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* nationally held at least one blood donation session in each of the last five years. [81067]

Anne Milton: The legal minimum age for blood donation in the United Kingdom is 17.

The information is shown in the following table.

Number of schools and colleges that have held at least one blood donation session per year, as at 11 November 2011

	Nottinghamshire	*England and North Wales*
2007	10	97
2008	13	97
2009	12	94
2010	12	73
2011	8	62

Notes:
1. NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is responsible for the provision of a reliable, efficient supply of blood to hospitals in England and North Wales.
2. NHSBT does not hold data to differentiate between sixth form colleges and other types of colleges.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant.

Brain Cancer

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the use of proton beam therapy in the treatment of brain tumours; [81272]

(2) what the average time taken was from the onset of symptoms of a primary brain tumour to its diagnosis in the latest period for which figures are available. [81274]

Paul Burstow: An expert clinical advisory group, established to look at the options for the development of proton beam therapy (PBT) services in this country, recommended that PBT could benefit a small group of very specific primary tumours. These include some tumours of the base of the skull in adults that are close to the brain and some primary brain tumours in children.

From 2008, patients with high priority cancers have been sent overseas for PBT treatment. A Proton Therapy Clinical Reference Panel, established by the National Commissioning Group, advises on suitable cases for this treatment. The Panel has approved over 100 base of skull or primary central nervous system tumour cases for treatment with PBT since the Overseas Programme began. The PBT clinical reference panel has also established processes that will enable the outcomes for these patients to be evaluated.

The Department does not collect statistics regarding average time taken from the onset of symptoms of a primary brain tumour to its diagnosis. However, "The National Report of the 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey", published in December 2010, included a series of questions about general practitioner (GP) presentation and referrals. The views of over 67,000 cancer patients were included in the survey results and of these 2,382 had brain and central nervous system (CNS) tumours.

The following table shows the responses of patients with brain and CNS tumours to questions concerning GP presentation and referral, presented alongside the highest scoring patient group.

	Brain and CNS	*Percentage All cancers*
Saw GP no more than twice about cancer related problem before being referred to a hospital doctor	65	75
Waited no more than four weeks before being referred to hospital doctor	90	90
Thought first appointment with hospital doctor was as soon as necessary	73	81

Both national and trust level reports can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_122516

Breastfeeding

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve long-term support for women on breastfeeding. [81453]

Anne Milton: The Department recognises the importance of breastfeeding and is committed to supporting breastfeeding through the Healthy Child Programme, as set out in the Public Health White Paper, published in December 2010. Support and information is available to health professionals and parents via the NHS Choices and Start4Life websites, the National Breastfeeding Helpline and local peer support programmes.

In addition, we have made a commitment to recruit an extra 4,200 health visitors by 2015, who will be able to help support women who want to breastfeed but may find it difficult.

Cancer

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the quality of care provided to pancreatic cancer patients; [81212]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the comparative quality of information provided to newly diagnosed *(a)* pancreatic and *(b)* other cancer patients; [81213]

(3) what proportion of pancreatic cancer patients were treated at specialist centres in the latest period for which figures are available; [81214]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the quality of experience of pancreatic cancer patients compared to other cancer patients. [81385]

Paul Burstow: "The National Report of the 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey", published in December 2010, is the largest ever England-wide survey of cancer patients' experience of care with over 67,000 respondents from 158 trusts. Patients with pancreatic cancer are included within the results for the 3,577 patients with upper gastro-intestinal (upper GI) cancers who participated in the survey. In the following table are the survey responses most relevant to the information requested.

Question	*Upper GI*	*Percentage All cancers*
Completely understood explanation of what was wrong with them	73	74
Given easy-to-understand written information about cancer diagnosis	59	66
Health professionals always worked well together to give best possible care	61	61
Given the right amount of information about condition and treatment	87	88
Did not feel they were treated as "a set of cancer symptoms"	78	80

Both national and trust level reports can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_122516

Information regarding the proportion of pancreatic cancer patients treated at specialist centres in the latest period for which figures are available cannot be provided in the format requested. Information about the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for patients with a primary diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, by hospital provider for 2010-11 has been placed in the Library.

FCEs should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with an asterisk. Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

Cancer: Surgery

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have undergone surgery for *(a)* pancreatic, *(b)* breast, *(c)* lung and *(d)* bowel cancer in each of the last three years. [80989]

Paul Burstow: Information regarding the number of patients who have undergone surgery for pancreatic, breast, lung and bowel cancer in each of the last three years cannot be provided in the format requested.

Information about the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for patients with a primary diagnosis of lung, bowel, breast or pancreatic cancer undergoing a main excision procedure in each of the last three years has been provided in the following table:

	Lung cancer	*Bowel cancer*	*Breast cancer*	*Pancreatic cancer*
2010-11	5,000	25,703	37,444	671
2009-10	4,624	24,888	35,830	685
2008-09	4,050	24,281	34,782	640

An FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs do not represent the number of different patients receiving treatment as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

A main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode of care, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode.

Carers

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require councils to include a minimum level of resources to be set aside for personal mobility when designing contracts with state-funded care providers; and if he will make a statement. [81151]

Paul Burstow: The detail of contracting arrangements between councils and independent sector providers of care is a matter for local decision. It would not be appropriate for the Department to set out in detail how councils contract with care homes. It is important that councils have flexibility to tailor contracts as necessary to meet the needs of individuals, their communities and specific local circumstances.

Personal mobility needs for disabled adults are met through the mobility component of disability living allowance (DLA). The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is considering personal mobility issues as part of the development of Personal Independence Payments, which will replace DLA in 2013. The Department has provided information to DWP regarding the responsibilities of councils and care homes to arrange and provide social care services, and the responsibility of the Care Quality Commission to ensure the quality of those services.

Dementia: South East

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Medway, *(b)* Tonbridge and Malling borough council, *(c)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(d)* the south-east who have been diagnosed with dementia in the latest period for which figures are available. [81656]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Numbers of patients on the dementia patient register for Medway Primary Care Trust (PCT), West Kent PCT and the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA)

NHS organisation	*Number of patients on dementia patient register at 31 March 2011*
Medway PCT	1,093
West Kent PCT	3,298
South East Coast SHA	24,284

Notes:
1. The national QOF records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia—a measure of prevalence rather than incidence.
2. Data from the QOF Dementia Patient Register as at 31 March 2011 are the latest data available.
3. These data are not available at local authority or parliamentary constituency level. Tonbridge and Malling borough council falls within the West Kent PCT area. Chatham and Aylesford constituency lies predominantly within the Medway PCT area.
4. QOF is a voluntary annual reward and incentive programme for all general practitioner (GP) surgeries in England and is part of the GP contract. The QOF was introduced as part of the new General Medical Services (GMS) contract on 1 April 2004. Participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services practices also taking part. Practices score points on the basis of achievement against each indicator, up to a maximum of 1,000 points. Results of GP practices' achievement against the QOF are published each year.
5. For 2010-11, 8,245 GP practices in England are included in the published results, covering almost 100% of registered patients in England.
6. The QOF has four main components, known as domains. Each domain consists of a set of measures of achievement, known as indicators, against which practices score points according to their level of achievement.
7. The following extract is taken from Quality and Outcomes Framework guidance for GMS contract 2009-10 'Delivering investment in general practice', March 2009, NHS Employers (note, 2009-10 guidance also applies to 2010-11 QOF). "The practice can produce a register of patients diagnosed with dementia. Rationale: A register is a pre-requisite for the organisation of good primary care for a particular patient group. There is little evidence to support screening for dementia and it is expected that the diagnosis will largely be recorded from correspondence when patients are referred to secondary care with suspected dementia or as an additional diagnosis when a patient is seen in secondary care. However, it is also important to include patients where it is inappropriate or not possible to refer to a secondary care provider for a diagnosis and where the GP has made a diagnosis based on their clinical judgement and knowledge of the patient. The practice reports the number of patients with dementia on its register and the number of people with dementia as a proportion of its list size."

Source:
Dementia Patient Register, Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), the NHS Information Centre

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80714]

Mr Simon Burns: Internal legal advice for the Department is obtained through a service level agreement which the Department has with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (i.e. from legal staff directly employed by DWP). DWP legal services report that the information requested is not recorded centrally by the litigation team; to obtain it would involve examining open files and recalling closed files from storage. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Diabetes: Nurses

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the role of diabetes specialist nurses in community, primary and secondary care and in the integration of diabetes care services is taken into account in his planned reforms of the NHS. [R] [81530]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government consider that diabetes specialist nurses are an essential part of the diabetes specialist team. They have a valuable part to play in supporting people with diabetes, and ensuring the integration of diabetes services.

Local health care organisations are in the best position to determine the work force needed to deliver safe and high-quality patient care for their local populations. Managing diabetes, and commissioning services for people with diabetes, is complex and we expect decisions to be informed by clinical involvement and leadership. The national health service reforms present an opportunity for stronger, closer partnership working between the new primary care commissioners and secondary care specialists, ensuring that evidence-based multi-disciplinary care is commissioned and is focused on the needs of the individual patient.

General Practitioners

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of GP appointments which took place in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [80694]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data centrally on numbers of general practitioner appointments.

Herbal Medicine

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many complaints the Borderline section of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has received where the medicinal status of the product required investigating in the last two years; how many of these resulted in a determination that the product investigated was a medicine; and if he will make a statement; [80864]

(2) which companies have been investigated by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for labelling herbal medicinal products as food supplements; what sanctions the MHRA can apply against such companies; what steps the MHRA is taking to prevent such practices; and if he will make a statement; [80865]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of herbal medicinal manufacturers who are considering reclassifying their traditional herbal registration products as food supplements; and if he will make a statement. [80938]

Mr Simon Burns: In the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 the Medicines Borderline Section of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) considered 986 complaints. The MHRA concluded that 667 cases involved products which could be classified as medicines by virtue of their presentation, or by virtue of their function or both. The MHRA approach in these cases is to seek voluntary compliance from companies wherever possible but six provisional determinations were issued in that two-year period and eight final determinations.

The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc.) Regulations 1994 make it an offence to place a medicine on the market without the appropriate authorisation or to distribute such a product by way of wholesale dealing, unless an exemption applies. Breaches of the regulations are a criminal offence and can be punished by up to two years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine. Companies that are investigated by the MHRA are entitled to their privacy especially where, following investigation, no subsequent enforcement action is taken against them. The MHRA considers that it would not be in the public interest to publish the names of companies where there is compliance with regulatory requirements; such an approach could also have legal implications. Where a case results in a final determination that a product is a medicine this information appears on the MHRA website.

Prior to the date of full implementation of directive 2004/24/EC the MHRA wrote to 272 companies which it believed to be involved in the supply of herbal products in the United Kingdom. 132 replied saying that they marketed some 2,915 products under the section 12(2) exemption from licensing contained in the Medicines Act 1968. The MHRA is aware of some companies labelling products as food supplements which might be medicinal products and is investigating those companies. The MHRA is considering the wider issues arising and how effective, proportionate enforcement action can best ensure that the intended benefits of the legislation for consumers and for companies compliant with the legislation are achieved.

Hospices: Charities

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of potential changes to the regulation of charitable hospices as a consequence of the reforms proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill; and whether he proposes that such hospices will be subject to regulation by Monitor. [81026]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill would introduce a requirement that "any person who provides a health care[1] service for the purposes of the NHS must hold a licence", except where they are exempt through regulations set by the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley).

[1] The definition of health care as set out in Clause 60 (3) of the Health and Social Care Bill in relation to Part 3 of the Bill states:

"'Health care' means all forms of health care provided for individuals, whether relating to physical or mental health with a reference in this Part to health care services being read accordingly; and for the purposes of this Part it does not matter if a health care service is also an adult social care service."

Therefore, any charitable hospices providing "health care" services would be required to apply to Monitor for a licence, unless it is determined they should be exempt by regulations.

Monitor and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) would be obliged to operate a joint licensing administration process. There would be a single, integrated application process and co-ordination of licence modifications and enforcement action. This would avoid duplication and reduce bureaucracy for providers.

The Bill would place a duty on Monitor to ensure best regulatory practice; keep regulatory burdens under review and remove unnecessary burdens.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, the CQC has a duty to ensure that any action it takes is proportionate to the risks against which it would afford safeguards and is targeted only where it is needed. The CQC is currently consulting on proposals to simplify and strengthen its regulatory model of monitoring and inspecting providers of regulated activities.

Injuries: Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has had discussions with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* officials on the cost of admissions to hospitals arising from dangerous dog attacks; [80995]

(2) what correspondence he has received on the effects on hospital *(a)* staff and *(b)* budgets of treating injuries caused by dangerous dogs. [80996]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been working closely with Government and non-Government organisations to prepare a package of measures to encourage more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks. This work is nearing completion and an announcement will be made by that Department shortly.

A search of the Department of Health's correspondence database since 1 January 2011 shows that no correspondence has been received on the effects on hospital staff and budgets of treating injuries caused by dangerous dogs.

Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of living in an *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural environment on levels of mental illness; [81652]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* poverty on levels of mental illness; [81653]

(3) what the rate of mental illness is of *(a)* males in the richest decile and *(b)* females in the poorest decile; [81654]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* environmental, *(b)* societal and *(c)* economic factors on long-term trends in mental illness; [81655]

(5) how many *(a)* male adults, *(b)* female adults, *(c)* male children and *(d)* female children were diagnosed with a mental illness in the latest period for which figures are available. [81687]

Paul Burstow: While we know that poverty, economic hardship, debt and unemployment are risk factors for mental disorders, no recent assessment has been made of the effect of unemployment or poverty levels on levels of mental health. Nor have there been any recent assessments of the effects of environmental, societal and economic factors on long-term trends in mental illness.

While the Mental Health Minimum Dataset includes rates of access to secondary mental health services by adults, they are not available by levels of deprivation, nor do they cover the number of people diagnosed with a mental illness, broken down by gender and age.

No recent assessment has been made of the effect of living in urban or rural environments on the levels of mental illness.

Neuromuscular Conditions: Health Services

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on progress in setting up a managed clinical network for neuromuscular conditions in the NHS South Central region; and if he will make a statement. [81495]

Paul Burstow: This is a matter for the national health service locally. However, the South Central Specialised Commissioning Group (SCSCG) report on neuromuscular services was published in August 2011. There are two established specialist providers of neuromuscular services in the south central region, in Southampton and Oxford. Both locations now have neuro-muscular disorder care advisors who are supporting patients in the region and further developing links from the specialist service into secondary, community and primary care. As part of the national work programme on services for people with neuromuscular conditions, the SCSCG (in conjunction with the North West Specialised Commissioning Group) has led on looking at models of care to improve the integration of care across pathways and providers.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what cases involving whistleblowers in the NHS *(a)* he and his predecessor and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues and their predecessors have received briefing on since 1997. [81031]

Anne Milton: To identify what cases involving whistleblowers Ministers have received briefing on since 1997 would incur disproportionate costs.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to support whistleblowers in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [81068]

Anne Milton: On 9 June, the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), announced a full public inquiry into the role of commissioning, supervising and regulatory bodies in the monitoring of Mid-Staffordshire Foundation Trust. As part of this, he also stated his intentions to undertake further work on whistleblowing and improve procedures for those who wished to raise concerns. These include:

Issuing unequivocal guidance to national health service organisations that all their contracts of employment should cover staff whistleblowing rights—this has been published on the NHS Employers website on 13 September 2010.

Seeking through negotiations with NHS trade unions to amend the terms and conditions of service handbook to include a contractual right to raise concerns. Changes have been made to the NHS staff terms and conditions of service handbook for those on Agenda for Change and were agreed through the Staff Council and published on the NHS Employers website on 13 September 2010.

Issuing guidance to the NHS on supporting and taking action on concerns raised by staff. This has been completed and as stated earlier published on 25 June 2010.

Reinforcing the NHS constitution to make clear the rights and responsibilities of NHS staff and their employers in respect of whistleblowing. A full public consultation ran from 12 October 2010 to 11 January 2011 to gauge public opinion on the possibility of adding:

an expectation that staff should raise concerns at the earliest opportunity;

organisations should pledge to support staff when raising concerns; and

the constitution should have greater clarity around the ability of staff to raise concerns.

The departmental response to this was published on 18 October 2011, endorsing these changes which will be made in early 2012.

Exploring with NHS staff further measures to provide a safe and independent authority to whom they can turn when their own organisation is not listening. This option is currently being explored.

NHS: Sick Leave

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the support offered to NHS employees unable to work due to sickness to resume work. [81119]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to improving the overall health and well-being of staff in the national health service.

The programme of work we are undertaking in this area is focused on both enabling improvements in individual's levels of health and providing return to work support when staff suffer episodes of ill health which prevent them from working.

The Department launched the NHS Health and Wellbeing Improvement Framework on 29 July 2011 to support NHS organisations in achieving changes to improve staff health and well-being. Over the coming months the Department is taking a number of specific initiatives in this area such as encouraging all NHS Occupational Health Departments to seek accreditation to the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's standards by March 2013; using pathfinders to develop models to support health and well-being in the NHS; and providing support to a number of organisations that are struggling to reduce levels of sickness absence.

The Department is also working with NHS Employers as a delivery arm for change. They are leading work on embedding approaches to support health and well-being across the NHS; supporting the development of Occupational Health Services and ensuring that there is a robust evidence base for the provision of these services in all NHS care settings; leading the national campaign to increase uptake of influenza vaccination by NHS staff; and helping NHS organisations meet their legal responsibilities for health and safety.

High quality occupational health is a key element in providing return to work support for employees unable to work due to sickness.

The Department's focus on this area will ensure increased support for NHS staff when they cannot work, and continued support when they return to work after an episode of sickness.

Obesity: Alcoholic Drinks

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between high levels of alcohol consumption and obesity levels among *(a)* 16 to 24 year olds and *(b)* 45 to 54 year olds; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of obesity occasioned by alcohol consumption in the latest period for which figures are available; [81661]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between high levels of alcohol consumption and obesity. [81664]

Anne Milton: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the relationship between high levels of alcohol consumption and obesity levels; nor has the Department estimated the cost of obesity as a result of alcohol consumption. We have recently published 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England', this states that alcoholic drinks can be high in calories and contribute to the energy imbalance that can lead to overweight and obesity. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

The 'National Diet and Nutrition Survey 2008/09-2009/10' showed that, for adults aged 19 to 64 years who consumed alcohol, alcohol provided on average 9.7% of total energy intake for men and 7.7% for women. Information is available in Table 5.22 on page 110 of the 'NDNS Headline results from Years 1 and 2 (combined) tables'. The information is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_128166

A copy of Table 5.22 has been placed in the Library.

Pancreatic Cancer

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to address variations in one-year survival rates for pancreatic cancer between regions; [80856]

(2) what plans he has to review referral guidelines on pancreatic cancer; [80857]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of guidelines for the early detection of pancreatic cancer by GPs; [80858]

(4) how many NHS pancreatic cancer clinical nurse specialists there were in the latest period for which figures are available. [80944]

Paul Burstow: We are providing data on regional variations in cancer care to support providers and commissioners to take action on variations in cancer survival rates locally. Through the National Cancer Intelligence Network we have already made available data collections on survival rates and surgical resection rates across a range of cancers, including pancreatic cancer. In August, we published the "Radiotherapy Dataset First Annual Report" to help tackle unwarranted variation in radiotherapy services and from April 2012 we are mandating the collection of chemotherapy data to achieve the same.

Referral guidelines for patients with suspected pancreatic cancer are included in "Improving Outcomes in Upper Gastro-intestinal Cancers", published by the Department in 2001, and in "Referral guidelines for suspected cancer", updated by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in 2005. In the latter, guidance is provided for gastrointestinal cancers as a whole, rather than by specific tumour type.

NICE is in the process of reviewing its cancer referral guideline to take account of the latest available evidence. While there are currently no plans to review the Improving Outcomes Guidance, we have made it clear that it will continue to be a feature of all commissioned cancer services.

Both sets of guidance were developed with input from a wide range of clinical experts, stakeholders and patients and to provide effective support for national health service in the diagnosis, treatment and care of cancer patients. However, they do not replace the expertise of clinicians who are responsible for decisions about patient care.

Finally, according to "Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) in Cancer Care: Provision, Proportion and Performance A census of the cancer specialist nurse workforce in England 2010", published by the National Cancer Action Team in December 2010, there were 205.78 working time equivalent (WTE) upper gastrointestinal CNSs. The total reported CNS work force number was 2,164.20 WTE.

Pharmacy

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of pharmacy contracts in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [81073]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of community pharmacy contractors in contract with primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and with the Kent and Medway PCT cluster (NHS West Kent, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS Medway) is shown in the table.

Information for 2010-11 is due to be published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care shortly.

	2008-09[1]	*2009-10*[1]
England	10,475	10,691
NHS West Kent	108	111
NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent	135	138
NHS Medway	49	48

[1] As at 31 March in each financial year

Sources:
NHS Prescription Services of the NHS Business Services Authority
NHS Information Centre

Social Services: Alcoholic Drinks

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of *(a)* drug dependency and *(b)* alcoholism amongst care leavers. [81622]

Anne Milton: These data are not collected centrally. A sample of 101 care leavers interviewed as part of a departmentally funded study by the university of York in 2001-04 found that 32% of them had problems with drugs or alcohol a year after leaving care.

Social Services: Learning Disability

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with a learning disability were assessed as having *(a)* critical, *(b)* substantial, *(c)* moderate and *(d)* low level needs in each local authority area in each year since 2000; [81377]

(2) how many people of working age with a learning disability in each local authority area were assessed for state-funded social care in each year since 2000; and how many received such care. [81378]

Paul Burstow: No data are held on the number of people assessed as having critical, substantial, moderate and low level needs in each local authority area.

A table has been placed in the Library that shows the number of people of working age, with a learning disability, in each local authority area, that were assessed for state-funded social care in each year since 2000; and how many received such care.

Tables 1.1 to 1.4 show the number of clients with learning disabilities aged 18-64 with completed assessments from 2000-01 to 2009-10.

Table 1.1 covers the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 when data for reviews as well as assessments are also included as they were not collected separately from assessments.

Table 1.2 covers 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Table 1.3 contains data for 2008-09 as the source table changed from previous years.

Table 1.4 contains data for 2009-10 due to the reorganisation of local government that created nine new unitary authorities.

Tables 2.1 to 2.8 show the outcome of the assessment for clients with learning disabilities aged 18-64 from 2000-01 to 2007-08. These data are not available for later years broken down by primary client type. These tables all refer to assessments completed within the year and the outcome of those assessments. Tables 2.3 and 2.4, which cover 2003-04 and 2004-05, also include reviews which were not collected separately from assessments for these years.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 show the number of clients with learning disabilities aged 18-64 who were receiving services funded partially or wholly by councils with adult social services responsibilities during the period from 2000-01 to 2009-10. Only a subset of these clients would have been assessed and would have started using services in that year.

Table 3.1 covers 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Table 3.2 only contains data for 2009-10 due to the reorganisation of local government that created nine new unitary authorities.

Provisional data for the 2010-11 will be pre-announced for publication on 30 November 2011.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of working age with a learning disability were assessed for state-funded social care in Redditch constituency in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and how many received such care. [81597]

Paul Burstow: The number of people assessed for state funded social care and the number who receive services funded wholly or partly by councils with adult social services responsibilities is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the number of clients with learning disabilities aged 18-64 who had completed assessments or were receiving services funded partially or wholly by Worcestershire county council during the period in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Only a subset of the clients receiving services would have been assessed in the same year.

Provisional data for 2010-11 will be published on 30 November 2011.

The number of clients with learning disabilities aged 18-64 who had completed assessments or were receiving services in Worcestershire during the period.

Rounded numbers

Worcestershire	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Completed assessments	70	115
Receiving services	1,415	1,450

Source:
Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) returns A7 and PI

This information is not collected at constituency level.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 November 2011

WALES

Broadband

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what her most recent assessment is of access to broadband in Wales. [81322]

Mrs Gillan: Providing Wales with superfast broadband is essential for businesses to grow and create the new jobs we need. That is why this Government believes superfast broadband is central to the future economic success of the UK.

On 12 July, we announced funding of £56.9 million which will put Wales at the heart of our plans to help bring broadband to everyone, and superfast broadband to 90% of homes and businesses.

Electricity

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the removal of its subsidy of biomass for electricity. [80477]

Mrs Gillan: There are no plans to remove the subsidy for biomass electricity generation in England and Wales.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), on behalf of the UK Government, is currently consulting in England and Wales on subsidy levels for large-scale renewable electricity generation under the renewables obligation for the period 2013-17.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times her Department's legal section has provided legal advice to Ministers since May 2010. [80484]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not keep a detailed record of all legal advice provided to Ministers.

Some information could be provided but only at disproportionate cost.

World War I

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans her Department has to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. [80619]

Mrs Gillan: The Prime Minister has recently announced that my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), will act as his special representative and coordinator for commemoration events.

I, alongside my officials, will ensure that Wales is fully represented as part of these commemorations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 330-1W, on Audit Commission, if he will publish the methodology that was used to calculate the estimated savings arising from the abolition of the Audit Commission. [81582]

Robert Neill: The estimate of savings given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in his announcement of 13 August 2010 was published on my Department's website in September 2010:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1732653.pdf

This estimate was derived from the operating costs of the Audit Commission's corporate and central directorates, as reported in the Commission's Annual Report for the financial year 2008-09, and expectations of lower fees for audit bodies as a result of competition.

We will set out a more detailed assessment of savings and costs in an Impact Assessment, before we bring forward legislation.

Council Tax Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to ensure local authorities have access to HMRC real time PAYE data to calculate residents' monthly council tax benefit entitlements; and when he expects such access to be provided. [81440]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W.

It remains our intention to publish in due course the Government response to the consultation, Localising Support for Council Tax in England, where further details will be set out, including on any future arrangements for sharing data.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to reimburse local authorities for the costs of administering localised council tax benefit schemes. [81441]

Robert Neill: The Government recognise that changes to support for council tax will have implications and the Government do not intend the administration of local schemes to put pressure on local government finances.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions will therefore work with local authorities to assess the impact of the localisation of support for council tax, including the transitional costs of moving to the new arrangements.

Empty Property: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there are in Bolton. [82134]

Robert Neill: As at the beginning of October 2011, Bolton metropolitan borough council reported there were 5,782 empty dwellings in their area. Of these 2,776 were classified as long-term empties and 3,006 were short-term empties.

This information was published on 16 November and is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltaxbase2011

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Fire Services: Pensions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he has had discussions with the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland on the effect of Government policy on firefighters' pensions. [82133]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, is responsible for the firefighters' pension schemes in England only, and has no role in relation to firefighters' pensions in Northern Ireland.

The Government's policy on public service pension reform is being led by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and, as such, public service pension reform was discussed at the last meeting of the devolved Finance Ministers' quadrilateral meeting in July.

Gurkhas: Aldershot

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department have had with Rushmoor Borough Council on funding to help Gurkha immigrants settle in Aldershot. [81947]

Andrew Stunell: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to Councillor Peter Moyle, the leader of Rushmore borough council, recently informing him about the announcement of £1.5 million of Government funding to support the successful integration of retired Gurkha soldiers, and offering to meet to discuss the fund.

My officials have been in touch with the chief executive of Rushmoor borough council to discuss the fund and are due to meet Rushmoor council on 29 November. Other local authorities with a major Gurkha population will be contacted over the next month.

Housing

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to balance an increase in supply of new housing with measures to stabilise demand. [81278]

Grant Shapps: The Government are clear that we need to get the housing market, particularly house building, moving again. To improve the affordability of housing and to stabilise the housing market in the long-term, the balance between supply and demand is critical. This is important for our plans for economic growth, but more importantly, it is crucial to the hopes and plans of young people, families and older households across the country. The Government's Housing Strategy for England—Laying the Foundations—was published on Monday 21 November. This ambitious strategy describes the actions we are taking to unblock the market and to support an increase in the supply and quality of new private and social housing.

Local Government Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department allocated in area based grant to local authorities in England in each of the financial years between *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much of this funding was spent on community safety. [81884]

Robert Neill: Area Based Grant was introduced in 2008-09. The Department for Communities and Local Government pays out the grant on behalf of all contributing departments. The sums allocated to local authorities in England in the years 2008-09 to 2010-11, funded by DCLG and in total, are shown as follows:

£ million

	Total	*Of which: relating to DCLG*
2008-09	3,059	659
2009-10	3,219	682
2010-11	4,815	2,314

Area Based Grant is a non-ring-fenced grant which can be used for any purpose, as can many of the other sources of local authority income. For this reason it is not possible to say how much of this grant was spent on community safety.

Local Government: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of active members of the Local Government Pension Scheme earning less than £15,000 per year *(a)* are female and *(b)* work part-time. [81574]

Robert Neill: As at 31 March 2010, 19% of the scheme's total active membership of 1,800,000 had full-time equivalent earnings of £15,000 or less. Of those 347,000 scheme members, 87% were female (301,000) and 84% worked part-time (291,000).

In accordance with Government policy, no scheme members in this pay category will face any increase in contributions to secure the savings as set out in the Department's 7 October consultation letter.

Planning Permission

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will publish any advice provided by his officials to the national planning policy framework Practitioners' Advisory Group; [73234]

(2) how many meetings took place between officials in his Department and the national planning policy framework Practitioners' Advisory Group; and if he will publish the minutes of any such meetings; [73235]

(3) what the *(a)* selection criteria and *(b)* appointment process was for the national planning policy framework Practitioners' Advisory Group. [73236]

Greg Clark: The members of the Practitioners' Advisory Group were invited to advise the Government based on their experience and expertise of local government, business and the environmental movement.

Officials met the group on a number of occasions. Advice from officials shared with the group, and notes taken, form part of the free and frank flow of the internal advice needed for the formulation of policy.

Planning Permission: Appeals

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to enable local communities to appeal when planning permission is granted for developments they oppose. [81658]

Greg Clark: Our planning reforms are designed to bring about a more collaborative approach to planning which enables communities to express their ambitions for their areas early in the planning process through neighbourhood planning and pre-application discussions on significant schemes. In this way development will be planned with the involvement of the community, with more decisions made at the local level, thereby reducing the need for appeals.

Planning Permission: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning enforcement notices were issued in the borough of Bolton in each of the last five years. [82146]

Robert Neill: The numbers of planning enforcement notices issued by Bolton in each of the last five years were:

	Planning enforcement notices
2006-07	35
2007-08	19
2008-09	17
2009-10	14
2010-11	9

Regeneration: Cambridgeshire

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to support regeneration in *(a)* Peterborough City Council area and *(b)* Cambridgeshire; and if he will make a statement. [79815]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Government are taking a new approach to regeneration and are working to give communities and local partners the powers, tools and information that they need to address local priorities for regeneration and growth. For example:

We have designated the Alconbury Airfield as an Enterprise Zone which will create 1,500 additional jobs by 2015, building to an estimated 8,000 jobs over 25 years.

The Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough local enterprise partnership has been provisionally allocated £10.5 million from the Growing Places Fund to create a revolving local infrastructure fund.

Planning reform and community rights are giving greater power to local councils and communities to determine and influence what happens in their area.

Financial de-ringfencing is allowing resources to be channelled more effectively to address local priorities.

The New Homes Bonus, including for bringing empty homes back into use, local business rate retention, and changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy, mean local areas will benefit financially from local growth and development.

Year 1 payments of New Homes Bonus to Peterborough and the three Cambridgeshire authorities totalled over £3 million. This translates to almost £19 million over six years.

Cambridgeshire authorities will be early adopters of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Huntingdon and East Cambridgeshire are working in partnership with the county council and the partnership is receiving support from the Planning Advisory Service as part of the Government's Community Infrastructure Levy Front Runners scheme.

Proposals for Tax Increment Finance will enable local authorities to fund key infrastructure and capital projects by borrowing against future business growth.

We are accelerating the release of surplus public sector land, and using our innovative Build Now, Pay Later model wherever possible, so that housebuilders pay for the land only after homes are built.

Through our new Community Right to Reclaim Land we are enabling communities to get underused public property back in use.

The Homes and Communities Agency is providing specialist expertise and intelligence to help local partners deliver their ambitions.

The Regional Growth Fund is investing to deliver private sector growth, particularly in areas most heavily dependant on the public sector.

As a part of DCLG's Capital and Asset Pathfinder initiative local authorities and other public sector partners in Cambridgeshire are moving towards an approach where assets are managed on a pan-public sector basis to reduce costs, reduce carbon and maximise benefits for residents. They are also considering setting up a Property Company to drive the process. The first projects delivered under the 'Making Assets Count' approach will be the regeneration of Wisbech town centre and the creation of a shared operational depot in South Cambridgeshire.

We are investing £4.5 billion to deliver up to 170,000 new affordable homes. With regard to affordable housing investment specifically in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 62W.

We are considering bids from areas that want to develop Whole Place and Neighbourhood-level Community Budgets. We will work with pilot areas to co-design new approaches to

tackling problems and improving services at different geographic levels, in particular by enabling more integrated approaches to tackling intractable, complex and interconnected problems that require multi-agency solutions. Peterborough city council has submitted a bid to be a Neighbourhood-level Community Budget pilot area which we are currently considering.

Sleeping Rough

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 337W, on sleeping rough, if he will publish the methodology and any associated guidance used to count the number of rough sleepers *(a)* prior to May 2010 and *(b)* since September 2010. [81583]

Grant Shapps: 'Guidance on Evaluating the Extent of Rough Sleeping' was published in March 2007 and can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/housing/guidance

This was superseded by 'Evaluating the Extent of Rough Sleeping: A new approach' published in September 2010 which is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/roughsleepingevaluate

To assist the right hon. Member, I have placed in the Library a copy of the report 'Roughly Sleeping' which I published in November 2007 on the flaws in the last Administration's rough sleeping counts, which were widely recognised to systematically underestimate the number of people sleeping on the streets.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the statutory basis is for the ability of local authorities to charge householders *(a)* to remove green or garden waste from residential properties and *(b)* for taking waste to recycling centres. [81462]

Robert Neill: The Localism Act 2011 abolishes the right hon. Member's plans (when he was Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to impose new bin taxes on family homes. Such bin taxes would have fuelled fly-tipping and backyard burning.

I note how the last Government's consultation on bin taxes actively considered abolishing the ongoing legal duty for local authorities to provide local householders free access to civic amenity sites (DEFRA, Consultation on the Incentives for Recycling by Households, 2007, para 5.6).

This Government have also taken steps to stop the imposition of 'backdoor' bin taxes and tip taxes, which were actively encouraged by the last Government. A letter from my noble Friend Lord Henley and I from April 2011 makes clear to local authorities how prevailing legislation specifically bars local authorities from making a charge for the collection of household waste, except in cases prescribed in regulations. A copy of that letter is available in the Library of the House and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bincharging

Water

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the merits of the introduction of a statutory requirement to include non-potable water systems fed through rainwater harvesting in all new build houses. [82075]

Andrew Stunell: To reduce the use of wholesome water, the 2010 changes to the building regulations introduced requirements for a calculated whole building performance standard for water use in new homes, currently set at 125 litres/person/day.

As the regulations are a functional approach, they also allow the use of non-wholesome water for flushing of WCs and other non-potable uses, such as irrigation, and the approved documents that provide statutory guidance in support of the building regulations give additional advice on the use of rainwater harvesting and water from baths, basins and showers (referred to as "greywater") for non-potable uses.

This approach reflects a policy in which water efficiency measures should always be considered before rainwater harvesting or greywater systems, which, if not properly designed and installed, carry a risk of cross-connection and can be more energy and carbon intensive than mains supplies.

Furthermore, The Code for Sustainable Homes encourages higher levels of water efficiency and sustainable drainage. Code level 3 is required by Government for all new housing funded by the Homes and Communities Agency and, subject to viability, local authorities can require housing developments in their area to meet specified higher code levels.

TREASURY

Sir Andrew Cahn

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what *(a)* dates and *(b)* occasions he has (i) met, (ii) spoken to or (iii) corresponded with Sir Andrew Cahn since he ceased to hold the position of Chief Executive of UK Trade & Investment; what issues were discussed on each occasion; and if he will make a statement. [81604]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The Treasury publishes a list of ministerial meetings with external organisations, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Banking: Business

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of bank lending to small and medium-sized enterprises in 2011. [76848]

Mr Hoban: On 9 February 2011, Official Report, columns 310-13, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks

intend to lend £76 billion of new credit to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in 2011. This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

It is encouraging that the banks have loaned £157 billion to UK businesses so far this year—20% more than they did at this time last year, despite difficult global economic conditions. While they have also leaned 10% more to SMEs than they did at this point in 2010, the Government are clear that they must do more to meet their commitment for the full year.

Biofuels: Wales

Mr Hain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider implementing fiscal measures to promote the development of the sustainable biodiesel industry in Wales. [81533]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Romsey and Southampton North (Caroline Nokes) on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 92W.

Capital Investment: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he plans to encourage growth in Northern Ireland through capital expenditure projects. [81998]

Danny Alexander: Capital spending in Northern Ireland is mainly devolved. However the UK Government does recognise the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland and have continued to allow the Northern Ireland Executive to borrow under the Reinvestment Reform Initiative (RRI) to fund capital projects.

In addition the Government's Growth Review will look at supporting enterprise and infrastructure projects across the UK, including Northern Ireland.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money had been returned to UK businesses under the Carbon Reduction Commitment between its inception and the date of the March 2011 Budget. [81631]

Miss Chloe Smith: None. The decision to use revenues from the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme to support the public finances was taken as part of spending review in 2010. This was prior to the start of allowance sales and the recycling of receipts.

Devolution: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* Northern Ireland representatives and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Executive on the 2011 Pre-Budget Report. [82005]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The Treasury publishes a list of ministerial meetings with external organisations, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for HM Revenue and Customs to report its findings on its internal review of policy on the use of rebated fuel in agricultural vehicles. [81477]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are currently reviewing comments from industry partners on the Memorandum of Agreement in respect of the use of agricultural vehicles on the road. HMRC are aiming to complete the internal review by the end of the year.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of rebate schemes which provide a refund to new-car buyers for purchasing low-emission cars funded by taxes on high-emission cars; and whether he has any plans to introduce such a scheme. [81480]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government support the take-up of low emissions cars by offering exemptions and tax relief for zero and low emissions cars through company car tax and vehicle excise duty. In addition, the Government are offering a grant of up to £5,000 to buyers of ultra-low carbon cars until 31 March 2012.

Loans: Northern Ireland

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether factors other than application of the Barnett formula were used to determine the Northern Ireland block grant announced in October 2011. [74698]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 17 October 2011]*: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 3 October 2011, that the Government have set aside an extra £805 million to support local authorities to help them freeze council tax in 2012. The devolved Administrations received Barnett consequentials determined by the Barnett formula in the normal way.

Money Advice Service: Standards

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the performance of the Money Advice Service to date against the objectives of its 2011-12 Business Plan. [81471]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service will publish an assessment of how it has met its objectives and priorities for 2011-12 in its annual report which it will publish by the end of July 2012. Its 2011-12 Business Plan confirms that it is developing a robust measurement suite to monitor and guide progress against its strategic aims.

Public Expenditure

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of identifiable public expenditure per head of population in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [81645]

Danny Alexander: The latest estimate of identifiable public expenditure per head of population can be found in Table A.2 of the most recent Country and Regional Analysis (CRA) exercise, published as part of the October 2011 National Statistics Public Expenditure Release.

Identifiable public expenditure per head of population for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2006-07 to 2010-11

£ per head

	National Statistics Outturn				
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England	7,042	7,414	7,962	8,553	8,634
Scotland	8,588	9,045	9,424	9,945	10,165
Wales	8,260	8,609	9,144	9,726	9,947
Northern Ireland	8,963	9,540	10,044	10,550	10,668
UK identifiable expenditure	7,288	7,671	8,203	8,785	8,884

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 12 October 2011, in respect of a constituent, reference CEDEL/6848/2011. [81584]

Mr Gauke: HMRC replied to the hon. Member of Walsall North on 15 November 2011. They apologise for the delay.

VAT: Overpayments

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of overpaid VAT by a third party not recovered by HM Revenue and Customs were *(a)* taken to the small claims court and *(b)* successfully resolved by the claimants in each of the last five years. [81712]

Mr Gauke: It is the legal responsibility of a VAT registered supplier to ascertain and charge VAT at the correct rate and to pay the correct amount of VAT to HMRC. If VAT is incorrectly over-charged the supplier is responsible for providing the relevant refund to the customer. HMRC has no information about cases in the small claims court whereby individuals have sought refunds of VAT from suppliers.

VAT: Prescriptions

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the inability of NHS trusts to recover VAT on prescriptions issued in hospitals compared to the ability of dispensing pharmacists to do so. [81436]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 100W. Since May 2010 I have received four written representations.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the Northern Ireland economy of a temporary cut in VAT of 2.5 per cent. [81997]

Mr Gauke: No assessment has been made.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Prime Minister whether he or any of his officials have met *(a)* Mr Michael Hintze, *(b)* Mr Tony Buckingham, *(c)* Mr Michael Davis, *(d)* Mr Poju Zabludowicz, *(e)* Mr Jon Moulton and *(f)* Mr Stephen Crouch since his appointment; and where any such meetings took place. [81707]

The Prime Minister: I and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. I refer the hon. Member to my list of official meetings with external organisations and to the list of meetings by the No. 10 permanent secretary with external organisations. These are available on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Office have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80065]

The Prime Minister: A list of my official meetings with external organisations can be found on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/transparency/who-ministers-are-meeting/

Information on official meetings by the No. 10 permanent secretary with external organisations can be found on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

Further detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Liverpool, Walton of 27 October 2011. [81566]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

News International

John McDonnell: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* civil servants in his Office and *(c)* special advisers in his Office have had with representatives of News International; and whether the BBC licence fee settlement was discussed at any such meeting. [80599]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of proprietors, senior executives and editors of media organisations that I have met since the general election which was published on Friday 15 July 2011. This is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers/

Details of special advisers' meetings with newspaper and other media proprietors, editors and senior executives will be published on a quarterly basis with effect from the period July to September 2011. Information on official meetings by the No. 10 permanent secretary with external organisations can be found on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

Sir Andrew Cahn

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Prime Minister on what *(a)* dates and *(b)* occasions he has (i) met, (ii) spoken to and (iii) corresponded with Sir Andrew Cahn since he ceased to hold the position of chief executive of UK Trade and Investment; what issues were discussed on each occasion; and if he will make a statement. [81606]

The Prime Minister: I have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. I refer the hon. Member to the list of my official meetings with external organisations. This is available on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advisers: Regional

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the membership of his Department's experts and external advisers comes from each of the *(a)* nations and *(b)* regions. [77170]

John Penrose *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The Department does not hold centrally a list of the membership of groups and meetings attended by external experts and advisers and is, therefore, unable to advise the proportion of national and regional representation.

Architecture

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the role of architecture in the formation of cultural quarters in cities. [80746]

John Penrose: Architecture, as one of the creative industries, has an important role to play in the formation of cultural quarters, particularly in their design and planning. As the coalition Government have recently stated in the draft National Planning Policy Framework, we attach great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design should contribute positively to making places better for people. The planning system should promote good design that ensures attractive, usable and durable places as a key means of achieving sustainable development.

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the *(a)* Baltic Gallery for Contemporary Art, *(b)* Bristol Harbourside, *(c)* Liverpool World Museum and *(d)* Quarry Hill Cultural Quarter in Leeds on (i) the regional economy and (ii) regional tourism. [80786]

John Penrose: The information is as follows.

(a) A study conducted in 2010 estimated that the economic contribution of the Newcastle Gateshead Culture Venues to the North East regions is £104-£106 million a year and supports around 2,500 full-time equivalent jobs. It is also predicted that a £250 million 10 year development of the Baltic Quarter will create an estimated 7,000 additional jobs.

(b) Arts Council England regularly funds three organisations on Bristol's Harbourside: Arnolfini, Watershed and Spike Island. These make significant economic, social and artistic contributions to Bristol's cultural life. Arts Council England has supplied the following attendance figures:

Organisation name	*Total attendance including workshops estimated 2010-11*
Watershed Arts Trust Ltd	126,983
Spike Island	88,218
Arnolfini Gallery Ltd	323,973

(c) The visitor data to the National Museums Liverpool (combined, including Liverpool World Museum) is published on this Department's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/Sponsored_Museums_Performance_Indicators_2010-2011.xls

This shows the number of visits in 2010-11 was 2,635,993, and number of overseas visitors was 342,679.

(d) No evaluation of the effects of the Quarry Hill Cultural Quarter has been carried out at this time. The Arts Council England regularly funded West Yorkshire Playhouse situated in Quarry Hill had 196,744 attendees in 2010-11.

VisitBritain and VisitEngland maintain regular inbound and domestic data, based on the International Passenger Survey and the Great Britain Tourism Survey. The VisitBritain "Top Towns Visited" publication

http://www.visitbritain.org/insightsandstatistics/inboundvisitorstatistics/regions/towns.aspx

shows that in 2010 among the top 20 towns visited were Liverpool (sixth with 452,000 visits), Bristol (eighth with 377,000 visits) Newcastle upon Tyne (14th with 224,000 visits) and Leeds (17th with 213,000 visits).

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the future requirement for independent business involvement in the creative industries. [81565]

Mr Vaizey: The creative industries are, as the name suggests, largely made up of independent businesses. The current definition includes the not-for-profit arts areas, but the thrust of our creative industries strategy is very much towards those sectors where we anticipate sustained growth in the future. We accordingly engage closely with creative industry businesses and business organisations, including in the Creative Industries' Council, to ensure that our policies facilitate such growth.

Arts Council England: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding Arts Council England has allocated to each voluntary or third sector organisation in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [81702]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England provided 633 charities with regular funding in 2010-11 from a total of 829 regularly funded organisations who responded to the annual submission. The survey of regularly funded organisations for the year 2011-12 will not be complete until autumn 2012.

Arts Council England, through Grants for the Arts, has provided funds to 237 organisations in 2010-11 that identified themselves as amateur or voluntary organisations. To date, in the financial year 2011-12, Arts Council England has provided funding, through Grants for the Arts, to 153 organisations who identified themselves as amateur or voluntary organisations.

The funding details for all of these organisations shall be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Despite difficult financial circumstances, the Government recognises the important role that voluntary and third sector organisations play in the UK arts sector.

BBC

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the *(a)* BBC and *(b)* BBC Trust discussed with him the BBC's proposal to replace references to BC and AD to Common Era and Before Common Era. [81228]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for New Forest East (Dr Lewis), on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 165-66W.

Betting Shops: Licensing

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many betting shop premises are licensed in each local authority in Wales; and how many such licences are active. [81534]

John Penrose: This information is not collected centrally. Licensing authorities are responsible for issuing premises licenses for individual betting shops and are required to hold records of the number of such licences issued in their area.

Broadband

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many miles of empty pipe his Department has required water companies to lay in preparation for future broadband fibre networks since 15 July 2010. [81633]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not required water companies to lay any empty pipe in preparation for future broadband fibre networks.

Broadband: Cumbria

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what factors Broadband Delivery UK take into account in the allocation of funding for rural broadband to *(a)* Cumbria, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* County Durham. [81570]

Mr Vaizey: The criteria used to determine the funding allocations for *(a)* Cumbria, *(b)* North Yorkshire, and *(c)* County Durham were the same criteria used in the assessment of all other allocations. An explanatory note outlining the criteria used is available on the Broadband Delivery UK pages of the Department for Culture Media and Sport website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/BDUK-Data-Model-Expalantory-Notes.pdf

Broadband: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to increase 3G mobile broadband coverage in Northern Ireland to levels similar to the rest of the UK. [82180]

Mr Vaizey: The Government recently announced that they were providing an additional £150 million to improve mobile phone coverage in the UK. Discussions have begun as to how this funding can be best used to improve coverage.

Although the principal objective will be to fill in not-spots in the national 2G mobile coverage and raise the coverage level to 99%, wherever possible any infrastructure provided will be capable of supporting 3G and, when available, 4G services. At this stage however, it is not possible to say how 3G mobile broadband coverage will be improved.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the likely effect on levels of mobile broadband coverage in Northern Ireland following the 4G spectrum auction. [82181]

Mr Vaizey: We expect mobile broadband coverage to increase across the UK, including Northern Ireland, following the 4G spectrum auction.

Ofcom's original proposal was for 95% population coverage. However, Ofcom are re-consulting on coverage obligations attached to 800 MHz licences, and a final decision is likely to be made in spring 2012.

The Department cannot give any assessment until Ofcom publishes the outcome of this further consultation.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80191]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has awarded contracts for design services to:

(a) Park Studio (24 Moira Court, Balham High Road, London, SW17 7AH) for leaflet design, information and title panels.

(b) Amos Marchant (Amos Marchant, 1 Longley Road, London, SW17 9LA) for plinth designs, leaflet holders, title panel and paint effects.

(c) COI (Central Office of Information, Hercules House, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU) for leaflet design.

(d) Redstone (London) for a report and template design.

(e) Adfield (village of Beckbury, Shropshire) for the design of a report.

(f) The Team (The Team, 30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ) for website design and a template.

(g) October Sun (6th Floor, The Communications Building, 48 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LT) for website design.

(h) Mother London (Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, London, E2 7DD UK) for the design of banners and postcards.

English Heritage: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding English Heritage has allocated to each voluntary or third sector organisation in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [81701]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held by this Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of English Heritage.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of English Heritage to write direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Gun Quarter

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the area of Birmingham known as the Gun Quarter being changed to St Chads and St Georges. [81227]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not received any representations on this matter.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much the Olympic Delivery Authority has spent on *(a)* polling and *(b)* focus groups in the last two years. [82095]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has conducted market research as part of the Travel Demand Management programme. This programme is designed to ensure that the transport network can operate effectively at Games time, minimising delays to spectators and the general public. Over the past two years the ODA has spent:

(a) £80,670 on focus group research. The vast majority of this was to help plan delivery of Games-time information and advice to businesses and commuters across London and the UK.

(b) £253,085 on polling. Surveys were conducted so as to understand likely travel behaviour during the Games and plan accordingly around venues across London and the UK.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Olympic Delivery Authority since May 2011. [82098]

Hugh Robertson: Staff remuneration including bonuses paid to directors, senior managers and other staff is recorded in the Olympic Delivery Authority annual report which can be found at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-and-accounts-2010-11.php

These figures are correct as at March 2011 and will be updated again in the 2011-12 annual report which will be published in the summer of 2012.

Olympic Games 2012: Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive spent on newspaper advertising in each publication in the latest year for which figures are available. [82099]

Hugh Robertson: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) spent £94,317.43 on newspaper advertising in the financial year 2010-11. This was spent on filling a number of public appointments. The Department pays for press space through the Central Office of Information (COI), who invoice the Department directly, and as a consequence it is not possible to provide a breakdown by publication. The above figure includes design and management costs billed by COI to DCMS as part of the contract.

The Government Olympic Executive did not incur any spend on newspaper advertising in 2010-11.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what bonuses have been paid to *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors working on the Olympic Park construction project since (i) the commencement of the project and (ii) May 2010. [82096]

Hugh Robertson: Some Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) construction and consultant contracts include incentivisation payments linked to performance. These payments are made on achievement of agreed performance indicators relating to objectives such as schedule milestones and delivering cost reductions. As the ODA is currently in the process of closing out contracts with suppliers working on the programme, the level of incentive earned is not available at this time and in some cases will be commercially sensitive and subject to confidentiality arrangements.

Incentive payments made to date to the ODA's delivery partner CLM are recorded in the ODA's annual reports which can be found at the following links:

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-and-accounts-2006-2007.php

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-and-accounts-2007-2008.php

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-and-accounts.php

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-accounts-2010.php

http://www.london2012.com/publications/oda-annual-report-and-accounts-2010-11.php

Sport England

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment Sport England is undertaking of the whole sport plan of each national governing body of sport in terms of their effectiveness in increasing participation in sport. [81869]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England formally assesses each national governing body (NGB) in the delivery of its whole sport plan (WSP) twice per year, and a large part of this assessment will cover an NGB's success in growing adult (16+) participation. Increasing adult participation is a contracted outcome with most of Sport England's funded NGBs, and is measured twice yearly through the Active People Survey. In addition, Sport England works closely with NGBs to understand how well they are translating their WSP into actual delivery on the ground that is impacting adult participation. Where Sport England concludes that an NGB will not achieve its contracted outcomes, then it has the right to reduce and re-allocate its funding, which has been the case with a limited number of NGBs.

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how Sport England will hold each national governing body of sport accountable for increasing grass-roots participation in sport as part of the 2013-17 whole sport plans; [81870]

(2) if he will instruct Sport England to ensure that when national governing bodies allocate lottery and Exchequer funding to increase participation in sports it is allocated on the basis of payment by results. [81898]

Hugh Robertson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, wrote to all national governing bodies of sport on 19 July, stating that the next round of whole sport plan funding from 2013, will be based on a proven ability to maintain and increase participation, and funding will be decreased or may cease altogether for organisations that fail to achieve their objectives.

Sports: Schools

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure that local authorities apply the same criteria for School Games to identify children to compete at county and national level; and if he will make a statement. [81693]

Hugh Robertson: School Games local organising committees are responsible for planning and delivering the county-level Festivals of Sport, linked to the intra and inter-school competitions taking place in their area. The Youth Sport Trust has published guidance for the committees to ensure national consistency of approach. The country's most talented athletes of school age will compete at the School Games national finals if selected by their national governing body for sport.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which schools are eligible to participate in School Games; how they will be funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81694]

Hugh Robertson: All schools in England are eligible to participate in the School Games. My Department is funding School Games until 2014-15. Over the period 2010-11 to 2014-15, £130.9 million Exchequer and lottery funding will be invested to support the programme.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which sports will be included in School Games competitions; and if he will make a statement. [81695]

Hugh Robertson: Currently 24 sports are available to schools. These are athletics, badminton, basketball, boccia, cricket, fencing, football, Goalball, golf, gymnastics, hockey, netball, New Age Kurling, Panathlon (a multi-sport disability event), Polybat, rugby league, rugby union, rowing, swimming, tennis, table tennis, table cricket, volleyball and wheelchair basketball. By September next year, the ambition is to increase that number to 38.

The inaugural School Games national finals will feature 12 of these sports, namely athletics, badminton, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, hockey, judo, rugby sevens, swimming, table tennis, volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

Telecommunications

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons telecoms providers are permitted to charge the same line rental for customers across the UK despite varying levels of service and coverage. [81706]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

The UK telecommunications industry is strongly competitive, with a very large number of national and local companies providing a range of services. This competitive environment has been supported by Ofcom through focused interventions at the wholesale level, such as local loop unbundling, wholesale line rental, wholesale broadband controls and access to duct and poles.

Ofcom has determined that given this diversity of competition it is not appropriate to regulate the supply or price of retail services. That said, Ofcom has imposed a Universal Service obligation on BT, due to its position of market dominance, which ensures all UK citizens have access to a telephone line for a uniform price. This has the effect of reducing the cost of such services to citizens in the less accessible or densely populated parts of the UK.

Television

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the economic value of the non-public service elements of the commercial television broadcast sector to the UK economy. [81853]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has made no recent estimate of the economic value of non-public service broadcasters. However, I am clear that non-public service broadcasting (PSB) channels make an important contribution to the UK economy. Figures from the non-PSB commercial broadcasters' industry body, the Commercial Broadcasters Association (COBA), estimate that its members are investing over £400 million per annum in UK production.

VisitBritain: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding Visit Britain has allocated to each voluntary or third sector organisation in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [81703]

John Penrose: VisitBritain has not allocated any funding to voluntary or third sector organisations in 2010-11 or 2011-12.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Forces: Children

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department regards the mobilisation of child soldiers as falling within the definition of violent crime in the Building Stability Overseas strategy. [81585]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of child soldiers falls within the remit of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy. The strategy sets out how conflict and violence can have a particularly devastating impact on the lives of women and children. The Government aims to help build stable states and thereby prevent the situations in which children are most likely to be drawn into violence.

We also aim to take direct action to help stop the problem of child soldiers, by applying diplomatic pressure to offending parties and by funding projects to help protect and rehabilitate children. Britain is a member of the United Nations Security Council Working Group on children and armed conflict, which leads the international response on this issue.

Arms Trade: EU Action

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his priorities are for the review of the EU Common Position on common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment, due to begin in December 2011. [81844]

Alistair Burt: We believe that the EU Common Position defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment works well, and that the review of the Common Position should concentrate on its common application by EU member states. We are actively participating in preparations for the review of this EU Common Position through the EU Council Working Group on the Export of Conventional Arms.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider including messages of support for the arms trade treaty in the core script for overseas ministerial engagements. [81840]

Alistair Burt: Securing a robust and effective arms trade treaty (ATT) is a priority for the UK Government. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers regularly raise the treaty, when appropriate, in ministerial engagements. Outreach on ATT, including through ministerial engagement, is intensifying as we approach the crucial Negotiating Conference in 2012.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of Ambassador Moritan's most recent paper on the Arms Trade treaty being adopted as the basis for negotiations. [81843]

Alistair Burt: The Preparatory Committee meeting process, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Moritan of Argentina, has made much progress since the first meeting in 2010. The chair's papers provide an accurate record of the discussions so far, and the UK, together with a significant number of UN member states, fully supports their use as the basis for negotiations at the 2012 conference. The rules of procedure for the 2012 conference will be established at the final Preparatory Committee meeting in New York, taking place from 13 to 17 February 2012.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: EU Enlargement

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Bosnia's bid for EU membership; and if he will make a statement. [81594]

Mr Lidington: The Government fully support Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in its aspiration to join the European Union. We remain wholly and actively committed to BiH as a sovereign, stable country with functioning state level institutions, irreversibly on the path to EU and NATO membership.

We remain seriously concerned at the very limited progress being made by BiH towards its European goal At present, BiH has yet to establish a satisfactory track record in implementing obligations under its Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU. Such a track record would be a key element for any eventual formal application by BiH for EU membership to be considered by the EU.

We continue to work on the ground, and in all relevant international forums, to deliver clear, consistent messages to BiH's leaders and citizens on the importance of committed effort to meet the criteria for progress towards EU accession.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Terrorism

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the threat of terrorist attacks in Bosnia by groups influenced by Wahhabist ideology. [81596]

Mr Lidington: There have been very few terrorist attacks in recent years in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It should be noted that the individual responsible for the shooting that took place outside the US embassy in Sarajevo on 28 October 2011 was a Serbian national, who is believed to have been radicalised in a third country.

The overall assessment of the level of terrorist threat in BiH has not changed as a result of this incident. We continue to assess, as set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Travel Advice, that there is an underlying threat from terrorism in the country.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals are serving custodial sentences in *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* non-EU states. [81700]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As of March 2011 we were aware of 554 British nationals in detention in EU countries, and a further 1,522 in other countries worldwide. These figures include individuals detained at all stages of the legal process. We are unable to estimate how many of those are serving custodial sentences because our case-handling database does not collate this information. Estimating this figure would incur disproportionate cost. Supporting British nationals in difficulty around the world is a priority for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This support is explained in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad; A guide", available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

We aim to contact British nationals, depending on local circumstances, within 24 hours of being told of their arrest or detention. Our role is to provide information about the local legal system, including the availability of local English-speaking lawyers, and to support the welfare of the detainee.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of bilateral relations with Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [80840]

Mr Bellingham: We enjoy good diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I visited the DRC in July 2010 and I have met the Foreign Minister four times in the last eighteen months. Our embassy in Kinshasa engages regularly with the Government of DRC on a range of issues. Britain is a major bilateral donor to DRC. The Department for International Development plans to spend £198 million on average per year from 2010-15 in DRC.

Human Rights: Business

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress the Government has made on ensuring that the UN Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework for Business and Human Rights is implemented by *(a)* central Government Departments and *(b)* UK companies; and if he will make a statement. [81873]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government expect UK businesses to operate at all times in a way respectful of human rights whether in Britain or overseas. Following the UN Human Rights Council's June 2011 endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in which the UK played an important role, the Government are fully committed to implementing those principles as part of a wider strategy on business and human rights.

A cross-Whitehall steering group has been formed to co-ordinate input from across relevant Government Departments into the strategy's formulation. We also plan to seek inputs to this process from the business world and non-governmental individuals and organisations.

Libya: Asylum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of living conditions for Libyans in refugee camps. [81489]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

According to the UN refugees agency (UNHCR), nearly all Libyan refugees on or near the Libyan borders are currently accommodated with host

families. Latest UNHCR reports indicate that only two Libyans are still living in border camps in Tunisia, which are managed by UNHCR. We remain in close contact with UNHCR to monitor the situation in the camps.

Libya: Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy about providing election and campaigning training and support in Libya. [81588]

Alistair Burt: We have had no discussions with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy about providing election support to Libya.

Macedonia: EU Enlargement

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Macedonia's bid for EU membership; and if he will make a statement. [81595]

Mr Lidington: The UK is a firm supporter of Macedonia's bid to join the EU, provided it meets all the necessary criteria. We welcomed the European Commission's latest progress report in October 2011, including its recommendation that the EU open accession negotiations with Macedonia.

We also support the Commission's encouragement to the Macedonian Government to enhance its reform efforts, particularly in the areas of media freedoms, judicial independence, public administration and the fight against corruption.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 26 September and 23 August 2011 regarding Mr James Smith. [81484]

Mr Lidington: The letters have been transferred to Her Majesty's Treasury for answer.

Somalia: International Assistance

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to work with the international community to remove administrative and political restrictions on the delivery of aid in Somalia. [81004]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government support an inclusive political process based on the Djibouti Agreement, including fulfilment of the key tasks of the Transitional Federal Charter. We are committed to supporting the transitional government if they demonstrate results, and to supporting a viable and inclusive new arrangement after August 2012.

The Department for International Development is working with international partners to help address corruption and reduce conflict so more aid can be delivered, including to new areas. My Department also provides funding to the United Nations and others to develop measures which remove practical barriers to aid delivery, including on managing the security risks which aid programmes face.

The Prime Minister recently announced that he will host an international conference on Somalia in early 2012, which aims to pull together international effort to address piracy, terrorism, conflict and poverty.

HOME DEPARTMENT

All Wales School Liaison Core Programme

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to provide to the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [81402]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 November 2011]:* The Home Office does not provide any direct funding for the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme. The All Wales School Liaison Core Programme scheme is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and the four Welsh police forces.

Queries on future funding should be directed to both the Welsh Government and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Wales (ACPO Cymru).

Asylum: Libya

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review her policy on Libyan refugees who wish to settle in the UK. [81493]

Damian Green: Applications for asylum from Libyans nationals are considered in the same way as other nationalities: on their individual merits, and in line with the existing legal framework. If applicants are granted refugee status the UK Border Agency will grant them leave to remain in the UK for five years, after which their case is reviewed in order to determine whether UK Border Agency will grant indefinite leave to remain in the UK. We will continue to monitor the situation in Libya very closely in case there are grounds to make any exception to this approach.

British Nationality

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she plans to make changes to the Life in the UK citizenship test; and what the timetable for any such changes will be; [81460]

(2) who is responsible for deciding what changes are made to the Life in the UK citizenship test. [81461]

Damian Green: The Home Office is responsible for the Life in the UK test.

The Prime Minister announced on 10 October that we would change the test and put British history and culture at the heart of it. We plan to have a revised test in place by autumn 2012.

Crimes of Violence

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of *(a)* violent crime offences and *(b)* serious violent crime in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 2009. [70381]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the north-east region and England and Wales for offences of violence against the person, in 2009 and 2010 (latest available) can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level or local authority level. Data are given in the table for the north-east region in which the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside are located.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Court level breakdown is available through the Ministry of Justice website.

Persons found guilty at all courts for violence against the person offences in the north-east region[1] and England and Wales, 2009 to 2010[2,3]

Area/offence type	*2009[6]*	*2010*
England and Wales		
More serious offences[4]	3,396	3,512
Less serious offences[5]	45,384	46,770
Common assault	52,790	55,438
Of which:		
North-east region		
More serious offences[4]	181	223
Less serious offences[5]	3,179	3,009
Common assault	2,653	2,758

[1] Includes Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Includes: Murder, Attempted Murder, Threat to conspiracy to murder, Manslaughter, Infanticide, Child destruction, Causing death by dangerous driving, Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs, Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person, Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, Causing death by driving—unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers, Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, Wounding or other act endangering life, Endangering railway passenger.
[5] Includes: Endangering life at sea, Other wounding etc. (including offences of assaults occasioning actual bodily harm and wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm), Cruelty to or neglect of children, Abandoning child aged under two years, Child abduction, procuring illegal abortion, Concealment of birth.
[6] Post publication revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Harassment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were victims of stalking or harassment in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [79966]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Estimates of the number of males and females who were victims of stalking in each of the last five years are provided in the following table. These are based on a self completion module in the British Crime Survey which asks adults aged 16 to 59 questions on their experience of stalking.

Estimated numbers of victims of stalking in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, 2006-07 to 2010-11—England and Wales, BCS

Number (thousand)

	All	
	Estimate	*Range[1]*
2006-07	1,629	1,524 to 1,734
2007-08[2]	—	—
2008-09	1,100	1,015 to 1,184
2009-10	1,165	1,070 to 1,259
2010-11	1,183	1,049 to 1,317

[1] The BCS is a sample survey which means that its estimates are subject to a margin of error. It is possible to calculate a confidence interval around the estimate showing the likely range for the true population value. This has been calculated at the 95% level, meaning that that there is a 19 in 20 chance that the true estimate lies within the given range.
[2] The 2007-06 BCS did not include questions on stalking.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter of 4 August 2011 and email of 12 September 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding a constituent Mr Adrian Jones. [81485]

James Brokenshire: The letter of 4 August 2011 was given to our colleagues in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) as the matters raised within were for their consideration as they related to operational issues. ACPO sent a response to the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay dated 2 September.

Metropolitan Police Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police staff employed by the Metropolitan Police Service subsequently took employment with a security company in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [81666]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many police force areas arrestees are routinely asked whether they have served in the armed forces; and whether they are directed to relevant welfare agencies. [81895]

Nick Herbert: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given on 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 421W.

Police Community Support Officers: Manpower

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been employed in police forces in Wales at each payband in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2011. [81577]

Nick Herbert: Available data relating to police community support officer strength in Wales, broken down by police force area, as at 31 March 2007, 2009 and 2011 are given in the following table.

Information on police community support officer pay is not collected centrally.

Police community support officer strength[1] in Wales, as at 31 March 2007, 2009 and 2011

	As at 31 March		
Police force area	*2007*	*2009*	*2011*
Dyfed Powys	77	82	80
Gwent	105	139	142
North Wales	145	159	159
South Wales	314	325	304
Wales forces total	641	705	686

[1] These are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Forensic Science

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken is for the police to receive a toxicology report in cases of a death in suspicious or unknown circumstances. [81710]

James Brokenshire: For police forces that have contracted under the National Forensic Framework Agreement (NFFA) procurement mechanism the standard turnaround time for toxicology cases involving drugs of abuse or medicinal drugs in blood or urine is 10 calendar days. There is also an NFFA service that involves the toxicology of named and unknown drugs in other body samples (e.g. hair, stomach contents).

This service is contracted to be delivered to a turnaround time that is agreed on a case by case basis due to the bespoke nature of the service.

Other contractual arrangements outside the NFFA are still in place in some forces.

Police: Pensions

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of a police officer's pensionable pay is deducted in pension contributions. [81875]

Nick Herbert: Police officers who are members of the police pension scheme 1987 contribute 11% of their salary towards their pension. Those who are members of the police pension scheme 2006 contribute 9.5% of their salary.

Police: Redundancy

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have retired or been made redundant in police forces in Wales since 2010. [81578]

Nick Herbert: The latest available information shows the number of police officers in police forces in Wales that have retired, 2010-11 (full-time equivalent). Retirement figures include those police officers that have early medical retirement, medical retirement after 30 years of service and normal retirement. The table does not include redundancy as police officers cannot be made redundant.

Police officers in police forces in Wales that have retired 2010-11[1,2]

	Number
Dyfed-Powys	39
Gwent	34
North Wales	49
South Wales	90

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Retirement figures include those that have early medical retirement, medical retirement after 30 years of service and normal retirement.

Police: Working Hours

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effect on crime of the restriction of the working hours of scene of crime officers. [81883]

Nick Herbert: This is an operational matter for the police.

Primates: Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-human primates were imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research in each of the last three years. [80687]

Lynne Featherstone: The answer, based on the latest information available, is in the following table:

	Number of non-human primates imported into the UK for the purposes of scientific research
2010	2,071
2009	2,200
2008	2,723

Rape

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to implement recommendation 22 of Baroness Stern's review on rape complaints since February 2011. [82175]

Lynne Featherstone: The terms set by Parliament allow the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) the discretion to set aside the requirement for immediate reporting and take a view based on the facts of the case. The Ministry of Justice has explored with CICA how to ensure that case officers have the correct guidance and training in applying discretion in rape cases, and that process is being kept under review.

Sexual Offences: Children

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted for sexual offences were barred from working with children in each year since 2005. [81259]

Lynne Featherstone: The information is not available in the form requested. A person may be barred by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) on the

basis of an automatic barring offence, or following discretionary consideration of criminal offences or relevant information provided by employers. Information about the number of people barred on the basis of the offence type is not recorded in a readily retrievable format and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) began making barring decisions under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 on 20 January 2009. The following table shows the total number of people placed on the ISA children's barred list under the automatic barring procedure. Approximately 80% of all automatic barring cases received by the ISA relate to sexual offences.

Time period	*People automatically placed on the children's barred list*	*Number of those people who remain barred today*
20 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	3,962	3,728
1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	12,533	11,484
1 January 2011 to 15 November 2011	11,153	10,692

The difference between the figures in the two columns reflects the adjustment for the number of cases where the person has been removed following representations to the ISA, reviews or appeals.

The following table shows the total number of people who, having been placed on the ISA children's barred list via the discretionary procedure in the year shown, remain on that list.

Time period	*Number of people*
20 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	25
1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	181
1 January 2011 to 15 November 2011	168

Prior to 20 January 2009, decisions to bar individuals from working with children were taken by the then Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls), under section 142 of the Education Act 2002, via the 'list 99' system. The data on the number of people barred in each of those years specifically because of their convictions for sexual offences are not available. However, successive Secretaries of State reported to the House on the number of people on list 99, as set out in the following table.

Date of statement	*Date to which figure relates*	*Number of people on list 99*[1]
19 January 2006	[2]—	[3]4,045
28 February 2007	27 February 2007	4,921
17 March 2008	13 March 2008	8,036
20 January 2009	19 January 2009	12,992

[1] Cumulative.
[2] Not specified, but shortly before the statement.
[3] Including 513 people added to the list in 2005

In the same period, the Secretary of State was also responsible for barring people from work in certain child care positions under the Protection of Children Act 1999 ('PoCA'). Inclusion on that list led to automatic inclusion in list 99, so the above figures include all those barred under PoCA.

Southern Investigations

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on whether any *(a)* serving and *(b)* former police officers have worked in any capacity for the company formerly known as Southern Investigations. [81846]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Stalking

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of good practice in respect of tackling stalking by police forces *(a)* nationwide and *(b)* in other EU member states. [78930]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Crown Prosecution Service, and specialist organisations to ensure that best practice guidance on the investigation and prosecution of stalking cases is disseminated, including through four regional events to be held in November and December 2011.

We have committed in the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan, to learn from how the fixated threat assessment centres (FTAC) methods of investigation of stalking cases could be applied to mainstream policing. We have also committed to learn from the pioneering work taking place in Melbourne, Australia to tackle stalking and will work with FTAC to consider how this approach might be applied in England and Wales.

The Government have not undertaken an assessment of good practice by other EU member states. However, as part of the Home Office consultation on stalking (launched on 14 November 2011) we are seeking views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively. The consultation incorporates a number of issues, including current legislation and how stalking is tackled in other jurisdictions. The consultation will close on 5 February 2012.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licence

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential effects on competition in the provision of travel services arising from her proposed reforms to the ATOL scheme; and if she will make a statement. [81176]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 21 November 2011]:* An impact assessment was published alongside the ATOL Reform consultation document.

The assessment suggested that the proposed reforms were not expected to limit the ability of businesses to compete with each other. However, it was recognised that some in the travel trade believe that they would be competitively disadvantaged if airline holiday sales were excluded from ATOL.

A revised impact assessment will be published when a final decision on the reforms consulted on is announced shortly. The revised assessment will incorporate relevant information from responses to the consultation.

Aviation: Security

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department have had with (i) airport operators and (ii) airline companies at which border checks were discussed in the last 12 months. [81164]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Airport operators and airline companies have raised passenger facilitation aspects of border controls with departmental officials on a number of occasions over the last 12 months, not least in the South East Airports Taskforce, which I chaired, and in the regular Facilitation Stakeholders Forum, which is chaired by officials.

Aviation: Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness amongst travellers of their rights when flights are cancelled due to winter weather. [80821]

Mrs Villiers: The Government expect air carriers and tour operators to honour their obligations to passengers under EU Regulation 261/2004 on denied boarding, cancellation and delay, and under the package travel directive 90/314, and to look after their passengers during times of adverse weather conditions.

The Civil Aviation Authority provides guidance on their website notifying air travellers of their rights when flights are delayed or cancelled and is the UK's complaint handler.

Aviation: Standards

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department's Sustainable Aviation Policy Framework will promote competition and choice to improve the passenger experience. [81207]

Mrs Villiers: The Government wants to see a successful aviation sector which facilitates economic growth and addresses its environmental impacts. We will issue a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012. We are also reforming the economic regulation of airports to put passengers at the heart of the regulatory regime and to support investment in our airports.

Bus Services

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Government's response to the Transport Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2010-12, Bus services after the Spending Review, published with the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2010-12, HC 1550, when her Department will publish the result of its work with the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers on collating information in respect of tendered bus services across England. [81225]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is working with the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers to agree how information in respect of tendered bus services is collated, and the nature and timing of any future publication of those data.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what contracts her Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information her Department holds on the location of such companies; [80181]

(2) how much her Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80206]

Norman Baker: The information is as follows:

Design contracts

Since May 2010, the Department for Transport, including its seven executive agencies, has awarded the following visual design contracts for communications media.

Contract title	*Value (£)*	*Supplier*
THINK! Road Safety secondary education website design (technical and visual design and build/delivery)	52,000	EdComms
THINK! Road Safety primary education website design amendments	2,315	EdComms
SHARP Motorcycle Safety website design amendments	750	EdComms
Blue Badge Scheme logo design for information pack and workshops for local authorities	1,200	Domarn Ltd
Maritime Coastguard Agency Annual Report Design	1,410	Chalk and Ward
Safety Leaflet Design	752	Rima Design
Safety Leaflet Design	140	Rima Design
Questionnaire Design	282	Rima Design
Safety Leaflet Design	552	Spy Design

All companies are London based except Chalk and Ward which is based in Devon.

Design costs

In respect of design costs in last year for which figures are available, in the financial year 2010-11 the Department for Transport, including its seven executive agencies, spent £1,200 on logo design. There was no expenditure on the design of stationery in 2010-11.

Spend on design in respect of advertising, campaigns and buildings is not separately recorded from other costs on buildings, advertising and campaigns and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78531]

Norman Baker: The following table shows how many employees in the Department for Transport and its seven executive agencies received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years, and what the average increase was in each such year.

	Number of increases	*Average increase (£)*
2010	13,064	664
2011	10,996	584

Senior civil service (SCS) pay has been frozen since 2009. Employees outside the SCS in DfT(C) and six of the executive agencies entered a two-year pay freeze in 2010, and those in the Highways Agency entered the pay freeze in 2011.

Employees on full-time equivalent earnings of £21,000 and under are eligible for a consolidated pay increase of at least £250. In addition, employees below the SCS with a contractual entitlement remain eligible for progression payments and this is reflected in the table.

Disability Aids: Visual Impairment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing a minimum eyesight requirement for *(a)* users of powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters and *(b)* pedal cyclists; and if she will make a statement. [82223]

Norman Baker: As part of the Department for Transport's review of the use of mobility vehicles, I have asked my officials to undertake further work with transport operators, the mobility vehicles industry and user groups on a range of issues, including a possible minimum eyesight requirement for mobility vehicle users and incentives for them to meet these requirements. No final decisions have been made.

Further details are in my recent announcement in response to parliamentary questions from the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) on 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 249W, and my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 284W.

There are no plans to require cyclists to meet a minimum eyesight requirement.

Driving: Licensing

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to increase competition in the provision of identity photographs for driving licences and passports. [81361]

Mike Penning: Competition in the provision of identity photographs for driving licences has been increased through the introduction of a range of service channels. Customers wishing to obtain a driving licence can choose from three channels to make their application:

a paper application, which has to include a passport size photograph supplied from any source (self-produced, and printed professional photographer or automatic booth);

a web-based application service which can be used provided the motorist has a recent, valid passport record held by the Identity and Passport Service on their database. In this case, the customer can choose to have the existing passport photograph sent automatically to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency via a secure electronic link, avoiding the need for a new photograph to be supplied; or

for photocard driving licence renewal applications only (since 2009), a post office service that captures a digital photograph and confirms personal details at the counter before transmitting the transaction securely to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

In relation to the provision of photographs in support of passport applications, I understand from the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) discussions with the photographic industry have taken place for over 10 years, with both individual suppliers and trade bodies such as the Photo Marketing Association International. The aim of this activity has been to ensure the widest possible circulation of its specific photo requirements and standards to allow the maximum number of suppliers in the market to be able to offer a compliant service to its customers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many notifications of attendance on a detoxification programme the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received from driving licence holders in the last three years; how many licences have been revoked following such notification; and what was the length of ban for each of these. [82147]

Mike Penning: Information on how many notifications of attendance on a detoxification programme or the number of driving licences that have been revoked following a notification of attendance on a detoxification programme or the length of ban for each of these is not held.

Emergencies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many full-time equivalent staff work on the transport workstream of the Capabilities Programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters; [79514]

(2) who the lead Minister in her Department is for the transport workstream of the Capabilities Programme; [79515]

(3) what the budget was for the transport workstream of the Capabilities Programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79516]

Justine Greening: Work on the Capabilities Programme has been carried out within the budgetary provision for work on transport security and contingency planning. The programme does not have a specific budgetary allocation.

Varying numbers of staff from across the Department and its agencies have contributed to the work of the Capabilities Programme over the years. Information on the overall numbers that are or have been involved is not held. But of those in my Department currently involved in this work as part of their duties, the equivalent of one full-time staff member is engaged in the transport work-stream.

I lead on this policy area.

Halton Curve

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with local authorities in Cheshire in respect of the Halton Curve. [81892]

Mrs Villiers: We have had no recent discussions with local authorities in Cheshire in respect of the Halton Curve.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has had made of the viability of the Halton Curve. [81893]

Mrs Villiers: Merseytravel Passenger Transport Executive carried out an assessment of the viability of the Halton Curve in 2009. This concluded that three of the four options studied had benefit cost ratios of between 1.5 and 1.9 but would require ongoing annual subsidy of between £1.1 million and £2.1 million.

Large Goods Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which agencies will be responsible for monitoring the trial of longer semi-trailers for heavy goods vehicles; and if regular updates will be published. [81708]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle Certification Agency will have a role in managing and granting Vehicle Special Orders for vehicles used in the trial and in verifying that the longer semi-trailers comply with the relevant technical requirements of Construction and Use and other Regulations.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency will have a role in plating and testing the semi-trailers, and in enforcing compliance with traffic regulations.

The main responsibility for monitoring will lie with an independent contractor. The contractor's four-monthly monitoring reports and annual reports on the trial will be published on the Department's website.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has made an assessment of the safety implications for cyclists of the trial of longer semi-trailers for heavy goods vehicles. [81709]

Mike Penning: The revised Impact Assessment published with the Government's Report on the Consultation into longer semi-trailers does not disaggregate the safety risk between different categories of road user.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent analysis her Department conducted of any potential change in the level of *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries, *(c)* slight injuries and *(d)* carbon dioxide emissions attributable to an increase in the motorway speed limit to 80 mph. [81557]

Mike Penning: The potential effects on casualties and an estimate of carbon emissions will be included in the assessment of all the principal effects of raising the national speed limit on motorways. We will include these estimates as part of the documentation for the planned consultation.

Parking: Westminster

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* officials in her Department have had with Westminster council on parking changes; and if she will make a statement. [80264]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Neither Ministers nor officials at the Department for Transport have had recent discussions with Westminster city council on parking charges.

The setting of parking charges in local authority car parks and in on-street parking bays is a matter for the local authority, in accordance with powers available. to it in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Department's operational guidance to local authorities, "Parking Policy and Enforcement", makes clear that it is for each local authority to decide what to charge for parking and the decision should reflect the objectives of their Local Transport Plan. The revenue that local authorities raise from on-street parking charges must be used in accordance with section 55 (as amended) of the RTRA 1984, which limits the use of surplus funds to transport related objectives or for environmental purposes.

Ports

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to review the 2002 Project Appraisal Framework for Ports. [81217]

Mike Penning: The Department intends to complete a review of the Project Appraisal Framework for Ports during 2012.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Government's response to the Transport Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2009-10, on the Proposal for a National Policy Statement on Ports, published with the Committee's Fifth Special Report of Session 2010-12, HC 1598, when her Department will commission new forecasts into port demand. [81223]

Mike Penning: The Department intends to commission new forecasts in the near future.

Railways: Overcrowding

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of future overcrowding levels on the Greater Anglia rail franchise when Abellio becomes the franchise holder. [82162]

Mrs Villiers: Crowding on the Greater Anglia franchise has the potential to increase in line with growth in commuter numbers, particularly on Great Eastern inner suburban and West Anglia outer suburban services.

However, the trains in these service groups on which crowding is liable to worsen are all ones that Abellio plans to run at the maximum length that the infrastructure will allow.

Railways: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to ensure greater funding for development and modernisation of Shrewsbury railway station. [81980]

Mrs Villiers: A scheme to provide improvements at Shrewsbury station is included in the National Stations Improvement Programme and the proposed works are planned to start next year. They will deliver better passenger waiting facilities, a new customer information point, refurbished toilets and additional customer information screens.

Shrewsbury station has benefitted from investment over the past three years. These benefits include a new fully accessible lift, upgraded signalling to deliver increased capacity, a new customer information system and major repairs to the canopy at the front of the station.

Road Traffic Control

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the National Union of Journalists and *(b)* proprietors of local newspapers on her proposals to amend guidelines requiring local authorities to publish temporary and permanent traffic regulation orders in local newspapers. [80688]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport has not had discussions with the National Union of Journalists or proprietors of local newspapers on the proposals to amend guidelines requiring local authorities to publish temporary and permanent traffic regulation orders in local newspapers. The Department will be going to full public consultation on this matter shortly, providing anyone with an interest with the opportunity to respond.

Roads: Accidents

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents have occurred at Junction 2 of the M54 since December 2010. [82132]

Mike Penning: There were no recorded accidents at Junction 2 of the M54 between December 2010 and the end of March 2011, the latest date for which information is available.

Speed Limits: Association of Chief Police Officers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the guidance issued by Association of Chief Police Officers that 20 mph limits and zones should not routinely be considered for enforcement. [81379]

Norman Baker: The Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) guidance, while indicating 20 mph limits and zones should not routinely be considered for enforcement, does indicate that some enforcement may be appropriate.

The Department for Transport is planning to revise and reissue its guidance about speed limits in urban areas with the aim of increasing flexibility for local authorities. As part of that process, planned for 2012, it is liaising with ACPO on enforcement.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to announce the award of the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [R] [81315]

Mrs Villiers: The Department expects to reach financial close on the Thameslink rolling stock contract in the new year.

Transport: Passengers

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the administrative cost was of each passenger transport executive in 2010-11. [81954]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Such information can be found in the annual accounts that each passenger transport executive is required to publish.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what extra funding she has made available in respect of winter resilience of the transport system; [80824]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to prepare transport infrastructure for extreme weather in the last 12 months. [80846]

Norman Baker: The Department has been working with public and private sector organisations across the modes of transport to improve winter resilience.

This includes through refining and promoting operational co-ordination and best practice, as in the ports sector, and targeted funding, as in the £200 million allocated to councils to address road damage caused by last year's sever winter weather or the development of a strategic salt reserve, currently valued at £27 million.

While we have to acknowledge there may be some transport disruption in the event of severe winter weather, the actions taken by the Department and transport operators will ensure that the country's transport systems are better equipped to cope with them.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency is in each year of the current spending review period; and what its budget was in each of the preceding five years. [82163]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's accounts and future budgets are set out in the following table.

VOSA 2005-06 to 2014-15

£ million

	Annual Accounts						Budget		Plan	
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Total Income	151.9	165.5	176.4	184.4	190.2	187.0	182.4	180.6	179.0	177.7
Expenditure	(160.3)	(184.1)	(193.1)	(197.7)	(204.8)	(179.3)	(177.5)	(173.7)	(172.0)	(168.6)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8.4)	(18.5)	(16.6)	(13.3)	(14.6)	7.7	5.0	7.0	7.1	9.1

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to include Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in the list of continuing media education topics available to Atos professionals. [81321]

Chris Grayling: There are no current plans to include a module on inflammatory bowel disease in the list of continuing medical education topics available to Atos Healthcare professionals. However, all health care professionals have access to an evidence based repository which contains information about these conditions.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the outcome is of the review by the Major Projects Authority of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's major change programme to deliver a new statutory maintenance scheme. [80228]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the outcome is of the review by the Major Projects Authority of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's major change programme to deliver a new statutory maintenance scheme. [80228]

A strategic assessment review of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Change Programme by the Major Projects Authority took place during July 2011 as part of a planned assurance process. Their brief was to review the outcomes and objectives for the programme and confirm that they make the necessary contribution to the overall strategy of the organisation and its senior management. The review team provided their report with a series of recommendations and I can confirm that these are being actively followed up by the Commission.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many cases are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency where there is no current assessment but where there are arrears of less than a year; [80120]

(2) in how many cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency there is no current assessment and there are arrears to be collected which are between one and three years old. [80241]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency where there is no current assessment but where there are arrears of less than a year. [80120]; and

How many cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency where there is no current assessment and there are arrears to be collected which are between one and three years old. [80241]

At June 2011 there were 14,700 cases with no current assessment with arrears of less than a year old and 38,400 cases with no current assessment with arrears between one year and three years old. Cases with no current assessment value have been defined as cases with a missing assessment value. This will therefore include cases that should not have a current assessment because the case has been closed as well as those for which the assessment is currently in progress.

These figures are for cases with arrears administered under 2003 rules on the Child Support Agency's computer system. It is not possible to break down arrears by age for cases administered under 1993 rules.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Maintenance

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency where there is no current assessment but where there are arrears to be collected between *(a)* three and five, *(b)* five and 10, *(c)* 10 and 15 and *(d)* over 15 years old. [81388]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency where there is no current assessment but where there are arrears to be collected between (a) three and five (b) five and 10 (c) 10 and 15 and (d) over 15 years old. [81388]

The information requested is not available in the specific time frames requested. However, the information which is available at June 2011 is shown in the following table:

Age of arrears	*Number of cases with no current assessment with arrears*
3 to 4 years	30,700
4+ years	32,600

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. These figures are for cases with arrears administered under 2003 rules on the Child Support Agency's computer system. It is not possible to break down arrears by age for cases administered under 1993 rules.
3. Cases with no current assessment value have been defined as cases with a missing assessment value. Please note that this will therefore include cases that should not have a current assessment because the case has been closed as well as those for which the assessment is currently in progress.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of cases within the live and assessed caseload of the Child Support Agency are under one year old. [81389]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of cases within the live and assessed caseload of the Child Support Agency are under one year old. [81389]

At June 2011 the Child Support Agency was dealing with 1,143,400 cases. Of these, 79,500 or seven percent were under one year old.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Living Allowance

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children with autism were refused the mobility component of disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many were successful in appealing this decision. [81409]

Maria Miller: We are unable to provide information on how many children with autism were refused the mobility component of disability living allowance as claims are not made for separately for mobility or care components but for disability living allowance as a whole and people may be awarded one or both components. Only claims which receive an award of benefit have a main disabling condition recorded against them.

Learning Disability

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of employment among people with learning disabilities. [81324]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to ensuring that all disabled people, including people with learning disabilities, have the opportunities, chances and support that they need to get a job and remain in employment.

For example, we launched the Work programme, on 10 June 2011, which is the biggest single Welfare to Work programme providing more personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people.

For disabled people with more complex needs which cannot be met through the Work programme, they can access Work Choice, which provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment, find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice contracted providers aim to help around 9,000 disabled people into work per annum. In addition to the contracted provision, Remploy aims to deliver 7,500 job outcomes through Work Choice in 2011-12. Support can also be provided through Access to Work, Remploy and residential training.

In December 2010, the Government asked Liz Sayce, the chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR to undertake an independent review of specialist employment support for disabled people, specifically Remploy, residential training colleges and the Access to Work programme. The Government's response and a separate public consultation was launched on 11 July 2011. I welcomed the central theme of the review, that resources for supporting disabled people into employment should be focused on disabled people themselves rather than on specific institutions. The consultation closed on 17 October 2011. We are currently analysing responses and will produce a summary of responses as soon as practicably possible.

Following the recommendations of the Sayce review, I have established the Inter-ministerial Group on Disability Employment. The group has set as its aim ensuring coherent working across Government so that meeting their full potential in the workplace is seen as a normal expectation of disabled people and that they receive the support they need to achieve this. On the group Ministers are represented from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Department for Education, Department for Health, Department for Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Defence, Treasury and Department for Transport and I have written to Ministers in the Scottish and Welsh Governments to invite their participation in discussions which concern devolved policies.

DWP is also working with Department for Education through the SEN Green Paper to look at how we can improve transition from education to work, so that young people with special educational needs (including learning disabilities) are better prepared and supported when looking for employment.

Mobility

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* representatives of state-funded care providers on overlap of personal mobility funding in state-funded residential care; and if he will make a statement. [81150]

Maria Miller: When we announced that we would not remove the mobility component of disability living allowance from people in care homes in 2012 we said we would review the position in personal independence payment.

My officials and I have met numerous organisations representing disabled people, visited care homes and had discussions with disabled people as part of the evidence gathering exercise on mobility provision in care homes. My officials also talked to a number of local authorities and many individuals and organisations wrote to us to give us their views.

We are now considering the findings of the recently published review into provision for the mobility needs of care home residents by Lord Low, before we announce our final decision.

Personal Independence Payment

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people with autism will be expected to undergo a face-to-face assessment process during an application for the personal independence payment. [81642]

Maria Miller: Claims in disability living allowance are currently, for the most part, based on a self-completion questionnaire. Additional medical evidence is gathered in only half of cases and an assessment by a health professional carried out in only a fraction.

We are determined to change this in personal independence payment. We think that a face-to-face consultation with a trained independent assessor should be a key part of the assessment process for most individuals. This will allow an in-depth look at the individual's condition to ensure they have support in place that really reflects their needs.

Face-to-face consultations may not be appropriate in every case. These decisions need to be taken on a case-by-case basis.

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will amend the draft criteria and descriptions for the personal independence payment to reflect barriers to participation and independence. [81643]

Maria Miller: The proposals for the assessment criteria were developed in collaboration with a group of disabled people, disabled people's organisations and other independent experts. The activities included were chosen to provide a more holistic assessment of the impact of impairments, whether physical, mental or cognitive.

They are not intended to cover all the areas of everyday activity or all the activities where disabled people face barriers or cost. Doing so would create a very lengthy and complicated assessment. They are instead intended to, as a group, act as an overall proxy for the impact of impairments on an individual's ability to participate in society, allowing us to identify individuals with the greatest need.

I am aware that Scope recently produced a report focusing on the first draft of our assessment criteria. Although we have a shared objective with Scope of reforming disability living allowance, ensuring support is targeted at those who need it most, we disagree on how to do this. We continue to be concerned that trying to look at every barrier or cost that a disabled person might face will lead to subjective decisions, inconsistent outcomes and a more complex, expensive administration process. These are all things we want to avoid in personal independence payment.

A revised draft of the assessment criteria was published on 14 November. The criteria have been refined considerably since the initial draft published in May, and this is in large part as a result of feedback from disabled people and disability organisations. We believe that the revised assessment will provide a fair and accurate reflection of individuals' need, targeting support where it is needed most.

Universal Credit

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what reporting mechanism he plans to use for the results of the direct payment pilots for universal credit; [81629]

(2) when he plans to commence the direct payment pilots for universal credit. [81625]

Chris Grayling: The Department has announced that we will establish about six small-scale demonstration projects of the direct payment of housing benefit in the social rented sector. The demonstration projects will test some key elements of social sector housing support under universal credit while protecting social landlords' financial position. The demonstration projects will include:

direct payments to tenants being the default;

adopting the payment frequency envisaged under universal credit;

safeguards to pay the landlord directly where necessary.

We will run the demonstration projects in about six local authority areas from June 2012 to June 2013, with a five-month lead in starting in January 2012.

The design of the demonstration projects and the selection of volunteer areas is currently under consideration, more information can be found on the DWP website along with a Q&A.

The areas and volunteers will be announced in December.

The Department is currently tendering for an evaluation of the demonstration projects. The precise form will depend upon the resources that are available, but we anticipate that it will include independent research examining the effects on different types of landlords and households in a range of areas across Great Britain. The results of the evaluation will be published in accordance with the Department's guidelines on commissioned research.

Winter Fuel Payments

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Swindon

borough and *(c)* Swindon North constituency who will receive the winter fuel payment in each of the next three years. [82101]

Steve Webb: Projections for the numbers of people receiving winter fuel payments are not produced below the Great Britain level.

The number of people receiving winter fuel payments is expected to reduce slightly each winter due to the rise in the qualifying age linked to women's state pension age.

However, if the England, Swindon borough and the Swindon north constituency share of cases in 2010-11 were maintained in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 the number of people projected to receive winter fuel payments would be as given in the following tables:

Table 1: Projected winter fuel payment recipients in England

	Thousand
2011-12	10,784
2012-13	10,675
2013-14	10,576

Table 2: Projected winter fuel payment recipients in Swindon borough

	Rounded to the nearest 100
2011-12	36,700
2012-13	36,300
2013-14	36,000

Table 3: Projected winter fuel payment recipients in Swindon north constituency

	Rounded to the nearest 100
2011-12	19,400
2012-13	19,200
2013-14	19,000

Source:
Budget 2011 forecasts and DWP statistical data.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Adam Werritty was present during any meeting where the Trident replacement programme was discussed. [81699]

Mr Philip Hammond: He was not.

Armed Forces

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the total annual wage cost for service personnel from the 39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support) after it includes 34 Field Squadron and 53 Field Squadron from the 25 Engineer Regiment; [81668]

(2) what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength is of (i) 39 Engineer Regiment and (ii) the (A) 34 Field Squadron and (B) 53 Field Squadron of the 25 Engineer Regiment. [81669]

Mr Robathan: The total estimated wage costs for 39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support), including 34 and 53 Field Squadrons, is approximately £28 million based on expenditure over the past 12 months.

The required and actual strength of the specified units as at 15 November 2011 was as follows:

	At 15 November 2011	
	Required strength	*Actual strength*
39 Engineer Regiment	509	565
34 Field Squadron	167	176
53 Field Squadron	170	188
Total	846	929

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department is providing to service people to access affordable housing. [81464]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence continues to support the Armed Forces Home Ownership Scheme pilot. We also encourage service personnel to explore the three main products available from the Government to help purchase a property. These are First Buy, New Build Home Buy and Home Buy Direct. Service personnel now have the highest priority for access to First Buy schemes.

We are working with mortgage lenders and their professional bodies to develop guidance for their dealings with members of the armed forces, while assisting personnel to enter into the UK housing market by offering a long service advance of pay to those eligible.

Changes have also been introduced so that our armed forces and former service personnel should not be disadvantaged when applying for social housing. For example, when service personnel can establish a local connection with the area in which they are serving, this will give parity of treatment for service leavers to access social housing. Key worker status has also been extended to service leavers to enable them to access the scheme 12 months after discharge.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), made a key pledge on 11 November 2011, to our service personnel to give them the support they need—whether buying their first home or applying for social housing.

The Joint Service Housing Advice Office provides service personnel and their families with information and advice on the increasingly complex range of civilian housing options.

Armed Forces: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the military establishment will be in Thirsk, Melton and Filey in the next five years. [81527]

Mr Robathan: It is currently too early to say at this time the details of what the military establishment may be in Thirsk, Milton and Filey in the next five years.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many four-star officers were appointed in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [81353]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the numbers of officers who were promoted to four-star in each year since 2000:

Promoted to four-star in year to	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*
31 March 2000	0	0	0
31 March 2001	2	1	1
31 March 2002	2	0	1
31 March 2003	1	1	1
31 March 2004	0	0	2
31 March 2005	1	3	0
31 March 2006	1	0	1
31 March 2007	0	1	2
31 March 2008	0	2	0
31 March 2009	0	0	0
31 March 2010	1	2	2
31 March 2011	0	2	1

Armed Forces: Children

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that UK-supported military training in *(a)* Ethiopia, *(b)* Uruguay and *(c)* Ukraine does not include training of children under (i) 16 and (ii) 18 years. [81587]

Mr Robathan: UK-supported military training in Ethiopia is directed at senior members of the Army (at least major rank). Therefore, this precludes any involvement of children.

In Uruguayan law, an individual cannot join the armed forces unless they are at least 18-years-old. Consequently any UK supported military training is targeted at individuals above this age.

Ukraine's law stipulates a minimum recruitment age of 18 years for both conscripts and contract soldiers. Officer cadets may join at 17 years but are required to complete a minimum of four years' training before joining their first unit. Ukrainian personnel receiving UK-supported military training are required to have several years' experience, and are typically non-commissioned or commissioned officers. The UK does not train Ukrainian officer cadets.

AWE

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he expects development of a new systems engineering facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment to go ahead; [77628]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* projected in-service date for each of the new build projects in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan 2005-15. [77629]

Peter Luff: The projects included in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan 2005-15 are shown in the table. The functions of the projects given in the table correlate with the headings in the Site Development Plan.

Where applicable, the names of projects are indicated where they have been finalised. Costs not shown are being withheld as their disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Department's commercial interests.

Projected in-service dates are shown in bandings to avoid prejudice to national security and/or Defence.

One of the projects included in the table is a systems engineering facility. This is one of the projects where the decision has been taken to meet the requirement without the need for new buildings.

Project name	*Function*	*Cost (£ million)*
2010-11 prices		
Completed projects		
IT server buildings (two projects)	Computer/communications	32
New office accommodation Phase 1-Gemini (two buildings)	Office and business support accommodation	78
Modular accommodation (five buildings)	Office and business support accommodation	27
Car park/landscaping	Office and business support/environmental	3
Outturn Prices		
Projected in-service period 2011-15		
Orion Laser	Testing/research	183
Small components interim-Leo	Manufacturing/production	16
Building for high performance computer-Orchard	Computing/ communications	—
High explosives fabrication-Circinus	Manufacturing/production	231
Projected in-service period 2016-20		
Warhead assembly/ disassembly-Mensa	Manufacturing/production	734
Uranium components-Pegasus	Manufacturing/production	634
Laboratory-Octans	Testing/research	—
Projects under consideration following SDSR publication		
High explosives climatic trials	Manufacturing/production	—
Chemical processing-Astra	Manufacturing/production	—
High explosives assembly for trials	Testing/research	—
Small components-Libra	Testing/research	—
Projects not taken forward where alternative solutions found		
New office accommodation Phase 2	Office and business support accommodation	—
New office accommodation Phase 3	Office and business support accommodation	—
Systems engineering	Manufacturing/production	—
Hydrodynamics-Hydrus	Testing/research	—
Landscaping	Environmental	—

BAE Systems

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Hyndburn of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 574, and to the answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the hon. Member for Fylde of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 758, on BAE Systems, whether the job losses at BAE Systems are due to a slow down in the Eurofighter programme or as a result of a slowing down in UK-US defence orders in the F-35 programme. [82177]

Peter Luff: BAE Systems issued a statement on 27 September 2011 which attributed the job losses to a number of factors, including a slower than planned increase in the F-35 production rates and an agreement by the Eurofighter Typhoon partner nations to a request from industry to slow Eurofighter Typhoon delivery rates in order to protect their industrial capacities to service anticipated export orders. The statement also acknowledged the need to reduce costs to ensure that the company remained competitive both in the UK and internationally. For its part, the UK Government are energetically promoting exports of the Eurofighter Typhoon which will help maintain highly skilled jobs in the UK defence and aerospace industry.

Building Stability Overseas

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Building Stability Overseas strategy, which countries his Department has identified as priorities for early warning efforts. [80931]

Mr Robathan: The Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS) was published jointly by the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development in July 2011 and all three Secretaries of State announced they would share joint responsibility for its implementation. The strategy includes a new approach to turning early warning into early action. By focusing on early warning we will be able to improve our ability to anticipate instability and potential triggers for conflict thus increasing our opportunity to take fast, appropriate and effective action where necessary and where UK strategic interests are at stake.

Early warning processes have been improved by drawing up a watch list of fragile states comprised of countries that have a high risk of instability and are also of high interest to the UK. These states will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that all appropriate action is being taken to support the aims of the BSOS. The strategy makes clear that the watch list is internal and both the watch list and the early warning report draw on a range of internal HMG reporting and cannot therefore be published for security reasons. However, the BSOS is open about the criteria used to select countries for attention.

HMS Poseidon

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 967-8W, on HMS Poseidon, what information his Department holds on the circumstances in which HMS Poseidon was salvaged by the government of China; if he will publish the text of any *(a)* representations made to the Chinese Government and *(b)* replies received in respect of the (i) recovery and (ii) disposal of the remains and personal effects of the crew members of the submarine; if he will make it his policy vigorously to pursue this matter on behalf of the families of the deceased crew members; and if he will make a statement. [81646]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence takes matters concerning UK military maritime graves very seriously. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China were formally asked in 2009 to provide details of the salvage of HMS Poseidon, particularly with respect to the remains of the dead servicemen. Following inquiries, the Chinese authorities replied that the location of any remnants of HMS Poseidon is unknown and that in the course of the salvage no remains of any sailors were found inside the submarine.

In May 2011 the British embassy in Beijing again raised this matter with the Chinese authorities, who reiterated their previous position and confirmed that a full investigation took place in 2009. It is likely that the Chinese authorities have been constrained by incomplete records, as the salvage occurred during the Cultural Revolution. The Chinese authorities have agreed to share with the UK any further information on this subject that may come to light.

Met Office

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the capital receipts arising from the transfer of the Met Office. [81901]

Mr Robathan: Defence Ministers have had no such discussions.

Military Aircraft

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many qualified fast jet pilots were available for active service at each year end since 2008. [79118]

Mr Robathan: The following table gives information for the number of Royal Air Force and Royal Navy fast jet pilots who were qualified and current on a front-line fast-jet type as at 1 April for the last three years.

	Royal Navy and Royal Marines	*Royal Air Force*
1 April 2009	20	290
1 April 2010	20	260
1 April 2011	0	200

The information has been rounded to the nearest 10.

The number of pilots available for active service will vary on a daily basis, for reasons including other work duties, sickness or annual leave. Retrieving such data would require a manual search of individual pilots' records and so this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The reduction in fast-jet pilot numbers reflects the withdrawal from service of the Harrier and Tornado F3 aircraft.

Military Bases

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it will cost to convert *(a)* RAF Cottesmore and *(b)* RAF Kinloss into Army bases; and how long each such conversion will take. [81486]

Mr Robathan: It is currently too early to say at this time how long it will take, or how much it will cost to convert RAF Cottesmore and RAF Kinloss into Army bases.

Military Bases: Radioactive Waste

Mr Gordon Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date officials from his Department most recently visited the site where radiation tests are being carried out at Dalgety bay. [81589]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence officials most recently visited Dalgety bay on 27 September 2011.

Trident

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Trident nuclear weapon system and its successor was discussed by his predecessor in Washington *(a)* between 21 and 22 September 2010, *(b)* between 22 and 25 May 2011 and *(c)* between 31 July and 3 August 2011. [81689]

Mr Philip Hammond: They were not.

World War II: Military Decorations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has found evidence in the archives of the HD Committee that awarding an official campaign star or clasp for the Arctic convoys was *(a)* considered and rejected or *(b)* not considered when campaign awards were determined at the end of the Second World War. [81647]

Mr Robathan: The HD Committee is not a Ministry of Defence body, but contemporary medal papers make it clear that the convoys to north Russia were considered at the time that the qualifying criteria for the WWII campaign Stars and Medals were under discussion.

From the outset, the qualifying criteria for the proposed Atlantic Star were designed to include recognition of service on the Russian convoys. The regulations for the Atlantic Star specifically allude to the Arctic convoys in the qualifying criteria.

Accordingly, I have placed a copy of the relevant section in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Argentina

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to visit Argentina in an official capacity. [77077]

Mr Duncan: I have no current plans to visit Argentina.

Argentina: EU Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of aid to Argentina by the EU. [77064]

Mr Duncan: The EU has allocated €65 million in funding for Argentina through the Development Cooperation Instrument between 2007 and 2013. EU funding for Argentina aims to support reforms to achieve sustainable economic growth, employment and social cohesion. The UK position is that aid spending should target the poorest countries. In the context of the EU, co-operation should take different forms for countries which are already experiencing sustained growth or which have sufficient resources of their own.

Argentina: World Bank

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the US Administration's decision to oppose new World Bank loans to Argentina. [77063]

Mr Duncan: As long as a country is not in arrears to the bank, the UK's position on loans from the World Bank to borrowers such as Argentina is based on the merits of each project, on a case-by-case basis.

Burundi: Overseas Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that withdrawal of funding to Burundi is managed in a way which does not negatively affect the country's development. [77555]

Mr O'Brien: Although the office will close and bilateral projects will end, DFID will not stop supporting Burundi. From 2012, DFID will concentrate exclusively on supporting Burundi's integration into the EAC through regional funding of TradeMark East Africa's (TMEA) programme in Burundi. DFID will also continue to contribute to multilateral efforts. This includes around 15% in central funding to the EU's work and 14% of World Bank funding in Burundi. The EU and World Bank provided £135 million to Burundi in 2010. DFID is also a major contributor to the UN's Peace-Building Fund, which agreed a new contribution of $9 million for Burundi in 2011.

Also, the TMEA-funded reform of the Burundi revenue system will in its first full year alone generate over £35 million in additional revenues. This is more than three times the size of the DFID bilateral programme.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* diaspora communities, *(b)* faith groups and *(c)* civil society groups on the holding of elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [77556]

Mr O'Brien: I had a very interesting meeting last week on the Congo with members of the Congo Now coalition, which includes representatives from non-governmental and faith-based organisations. The group raised the need to increase women's participation in politics and elections, support for elections observation and support for elections beyond 2011, particularly for local elections in 2013. The UK is either already supporting or has plans to support all these areas either directly or as a member of the European Union and their electoral

observation work. Other than this meeting I have not had any formal direct contact with diaspora communities in the UK.

The DFID office in Kinshasa is in regular contact with the Congolese Government, civil society organisations (including faith-based organisations) and international agencies, especially the UN, with regards to the elections and to support the process.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to the holding of elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [77557]

Mr Duncan: The UK's support to the electoral process is focused on strengthening the new electoral commission, voter registration, civic education and election security. We will increase the participation, particularly of women and first-time voters, in both voter registration and the elections themselves, by improving understanding of the electoral process.

Our programme is also helping to develop an independent, well-regulated, more diverse and professional media, which can promote open and issues-based debate in advance of elections. We are supporting elections-related projects implemented by Congolese civil society organisations, through our support to the Civil Society Fund. Along with other donors we are supporting the Congolese police to be able to provide security during the elections, through a focus on communications and applying community policing principles. Complementing this we are assisting the Inspector General Audit and civil society to monitor the role of the police during the elections.

We have already exceeded one of our operational plan results, with voter registration reaching 32 million, compared to 26 million in 2006, and a 31 million target.

DFID's contribution to elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is £31 million. This accounts for more than a third of total donor pledges to date.

Equal Opportunities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to promote equality of opportunity for employees of his Department. [77083]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has developed a new Equality Framework, which is a strategic approach aimed at meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The framework aims to improve equal opportunities for all our staff and to minimise the administrative burden to achieving this aim. It has a number of objectives intended to provide a workplace that is representative of all groups and values staff.

To enable it to promote equality of opportunity for employees DFID annually monitors its work force against targets intended to address previously identified areas of under-representation at all grades in our work force. We offer a range of development opportunities and training with equalities content, open to all our staff including those located overseas.

More specifically DFID is participating in the work of the Government-appointed Task and Reference groups on disability.

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many flags his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and at what cost to the public purse [77082]

Mr Duncan: As from May this year the Union Jack flies all year round outside the Department for International Development in London.

The Department for International Development's office in East Kilbride, Scotland has six flags consisting of:

two Union flags that are flown all year round;

one St Andrew flag that is flown all year round;

two European Union flags that are flown when directed. These have not been flown since May 2010.

one Armed Forces day flag that is flown on Armed Forces day and when directed.

These flags were bought several years ago. There are currently no maintenance costs on these flags.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80715]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has had no applications for judicial review made against it since May 2010 or in the period covering the last Parliament.

Developing Countries: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what the estimated value to the UK economy is of natural capital in developing countries; [80284]

(2) how the value of natural capital in developing countries is taken into account when measuring the effectiveness of UK aid; [80285]

(3) how the UK encourages developing countries to value their natural capital when measuring economic progress. [80286]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is fully committed to supporting initiatives which correct the systematic undervaluation of natural assets in developing countries. The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting both the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, which seeks to draw attention

to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, and the World Bank's Wealth Accounting and Valuation (WAVES) initiative, which seeks to enable developing countries to value biodiversity and ecosystem services and to integrate these values in decision making and national accounting.

DFID's Climate and Environment Assessment mainstreams environmental protection in all of DFID's large programmes. The share of aid which delivers environmental protection is therefore much higher than the share of aid that is directly attributable to biodiversity conservation and eco-systems services.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will work with the Mexican Government during its chairing of the G20 to prioritise climate change adaptation and the reduction of disaster risk in development approaches for the successor to the L'Aquila initiative. [81420]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Mexican Government have yet to present a formal work plan for its presidency of the G20 next year, so it is not yet clear if climate change adaptation and the reduction of disaster risk will be considered. If these issues are taken up for specific consideration, I would support this. Following this year's humanitarian emergency response review, I have committed to make disaster resilience a core part of DFID's approach in all of our country programmes, integrate disaster resilience into our work on climate change and play a leadership role in promoting this agenda. We will work closely with Mexico as it takes over the presidency.

Developing Countries: Females

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to provide support for tackling violence against women and children in the context of humanitarian assistance. [81586]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have made tackling violence against women and girls one of the Department for International Development's four top priorities in our Gender Strategy. Up to 25 of our 28 country offices are either programming or planning to programme in this area. Specific to our humanitarian assistance we address the needs of women and children exposed to risk of violence through our influence over the international community and by ensuring that the UK's own protection programmes in crisis situations address their needs.

For example, through our core funding to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), we enable their protection work to address the needs of women and children exposed to violence in humanitarian settings. Most recently, in the UK's own response to the crisis in Haiti we ensured that our implementing partners integrated the needs of women and children in their protection programmes, one practical example being providing adequate lighting in camps to make women and children feel safe.

Developing Countries: Food

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken in support of the L'Aquila food security initiative. [81418]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The latest financial year for which we now have finalised UK Statistics on International Development is 2010-11. After two years of our three-year AFSI financial commitment period we have disbursed over 80% of our overall commitment of £1.1 billion through our bilateral programmes and through multilateral channels. We therefore expect to meet our spending commitment in full by the end of the period. We have also played a leading role among AFSI signatories in promoting the adoption of the aid effectiveness principles agreed as part of the AFSI declaration in our approach to work on food security.

Our support has been instrumental in helping eradicate animal diseases like Rinderpest and roll out crops like orange fleshed sweet potato which, among other benefits, improves the vitamin A status of children. In Ethiopia, UK support to the productive safety net is helping over seven million people escape long term dependency by providing cash for work opportunities which build community infrastructure such as classrooms and access roads. DFID is also attracting new money and partnerships to increase jobs and incomes generated through agricultural investment. In Nigeria DFID is working with the private sector to supply 170,000 households with affordable fertiliser, create 55,000 jobs and generate an additional £4.8 million income. DFID has also scaled up interventions to tackle under-nutrition in 20 million children. By 2012, we will be spending in excess of £12 million on nutrition research—doubling our investment since 2009. Similarly we have doubled our spending on direct interventions (e.g., vitamin A to prevent blindness) from around £40 million in 2009.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the L'Aquila food security initiative in *(a)* increasing food security and *(b)* reducing malnutrition. [81419]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: After two years of our three year AFSI financial commitment period (2009-12) we have disbursed over 80% of the £1.1 billion committed by the UK. We expect to meet our spending commitment in full by the end of 2012 through both our bilateral and multilateral channels. Examples of results that UK funding for food security related activities has helped to achieve include high yielding rice varieties specifically suited to dryland areas now grown by three million households across India; the development of vaccines for East Coast Fever and support for the eradication of Rinderpest—two important diseases of cattle in Africa—which will improve the livelihoods of millions. And in Ethiopia, DFID support is helping 1.2 million people escape long term dependency on food aid by promoting cash for work, which is giving the poorest an income to invest in their farms and send their children to school, and building vital community infrastructure such as water points.

On malnutrition, along with a number of partner Governments, the Gates Foundation and multilateral agencies, we are supporting the Scaling Up Nutrition

(SUN) initiative—the most promising mechanism for accelerating action to improve nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life and have already committed to double our reach through nutrition interventions from 10 million to 20 million children under five years of age.

The UK is working with other the AFSI signatories to develop robust evaluation process for reviewing the impact of both the AFSI financial commitments and the commitments made to the five aid effectiveness and partnership principles underpinning their efforts.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's Building Stability Overseas strategy, when he expects the first early warning report to be released. [80932]

Mr Duncan: The Building Stability Overseas Strategy explains that the Early Warning Reports are underpinned by all-source analysis. This means they draw on a range of internal Government reporting and cannot therefore be published for national security reasons.

East Africa: Disease Control

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to prevent the spread of disease in refugee camps in East Africa during the rainy season. [81634]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The onset of rains in the drought stricken parts of the East and Horn of Africa has increased the risk of disease outbreaks among weakened populations, particularly in the large refugee camps of Kenya and Ethiopia. The greatest disease risks include cholera, measles and malaria.

In Somalia the UK has provided measles vaccinations to over 900,000 children to mitigate against the spread of measles to refugee camps—eventually over 1.3 million children will be vaccinated.

In Ethiopia, the UK has helped to provide clean water, healthcare and vaccinations for over 100,000 Somali refugees, as well as supporting the UN refugee agency to prevent the spread of disease and pre-position supplies and staff.

In Kenya, the UK has helped to provide safe drinking water to approximately 300,000 Somali refugees. Over 65,000 Somali refugees are now benefitting from UK funded latrines in the camps. The UK is also helping to provide primary health care services to Somali refugees. In October, UK funded health centres undertook over 12,600 consultations.

East Africa: Droughts

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in assisting those in need in those parts of Somalia worst affected by conflict where famine was declared in July 2011. [81635]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Britain has let the response to the crisis in Somalia, the UK has provided over £57 million since July to address the country's extraordinary humanitarian situation.

To date the UK has provided food for 250,000 people, emergency nutrition treatment to some 11,000 severely acutely malnourished children and vaccinations against measles for over 900,000 children. UK support has also funded clean water, shelter, and other humanitarian support to those in need. These results have been achieved with a number of partners working in difficult conditions, where access to affected populations is not easy. Almost all UK humanitarian aid for Somalia is directed towards the famine affected areas in the South of the country.

The recent assessment by the UN's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit has recorded a modest improvement in the situation, with three of the previous six famine regions no longer classified as being in famine. However, needs remain huge, and the UK will continue to play its part in the response, and lobby others to meet their fair share.

Libya: Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has received any requests from the Libyan National Transitional Council for UK support for capacity-building for the planned 2012 elections. [81590]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) leads for the international community on the provision of election support to the Libyan authorities and this has been one of its foremost priorities. UNSMIL has, at the request of the National Transitional Council (NTC), begun to provide expertise and support to the NTC in relation to electoral process, electoral law, the future electoral management body, voter registration and civic education.

The UK is working closely with the NTC and UNSMIL to identify where we might support Libyan-led processes. We are particularly keen to support participation by women and young people and are encouraging the NTC to take this into account in the political process. The UK has not received any specific requests for support for the 2012 elections, but we will continue to work with the NTC and UNSMIL on this issue.

Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails he has received concerning aid provision in developing countries in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [77085]

Mr Duncan: Over the past 12 months the Public Enquiry Point has received the following items:

	Number
Items with 'aid' as subject	2,239
Items with 'aid provision' as subject	2,247
Items with 'aid to developing countries' as subject	2,247

Over the same time period we have received 1,335 letters regarding the provision of aid.

Somalia: Asylum

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to work with the international community and the Government of Kenya to identify lasting solutions for the Somali refugee population which respect international legal principles. [81265]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I discussed refugee issues with the Government of Kenya during my visit to Kenya in July, when I also visited the Dadaab refugee camp. I also saw the Kenyan Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, George Saitoti when he visited London on 21 November.

Resettlement and local integration are unlikely to provide durable solutions for the vast majority of Somali refugees. Opportunities should be taken to incentivise voluntary to Somalia return where it is safe to do so. But large scale return remains unlikely without greater stability in Somalia—a key objective of our development and political engagement there.

UK Government officials therefore continue to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other donors to press the Kenyan Government to fulfil their obligations under international refugee law. My Department has allocated £6 million since July to UNHCR and other partners to support 130,000 refugees with relief assistance, including healthcare, nutrition, shelter and water and sanitation. I am currently considering what support we should provide in 2012.

Somaliland: Sovereignty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails his Department received concerning the recognition of the independence of Somaliland in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [77084]

Mr Duncan: In the last 12 months, the Department for International Development has not received any ministerial correspondence concerning the recognition of independence of Somaliland.

Over the same time period we received 15 inquiries by e-mail to the Public Enquiry Point on this subject.

JUSTICE

Birmingham Prison

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether additional costs were added to the public sector bid in respect of the recent tendering process for HM Prison Birmingham. [81847]

Mr Blunt: The public sector bid team were required to make a series of uplifts and adjustments to their bid for HMP Birmingham.

All bidders were made aware of the Principles of Competition for Phase 1 Prisons Competition (inclusive of HMP Birmingham) including the uplift on bid costs for the public sector at the start of the process.

The Principles of Competition requires a public sector bid to apply both percentages and fixed amounts to cover specified individual costs but it is important to note that some percentage mark-ups only apply to specific elements of the bid (for example pension mark-up applies only to pay roll costs). Overall totals/percentages therefore will differ between individual bids reflecting the overall cost of the bid itself.

Phase 1 Competition

The full list of uplifts applied the public sector bids for the Phase 1 which included Birmingham and Buckley Hall were as follows:

6.5%—Added to direct costs to reflect indirect costs/corporate overheads

3%—Added to payroll costs for pensions

2% or 1%—Added to total costs to reflect risk retention (depending on prison, ie 2% HMP Birmingham

£ cost—Actual cost of insurance quoted by a commercial insurer

£ cost—Actual cost of bidding assuming recover rate of 1.67 on £1.1 million

The insurance cost quoted for Birmingham was £406,794.

Based on these principles the overall mark-up for each of the public sector bids was less than 10%.

Civil Disorder

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice of those found guilty of offences committed during the public disorder of summer 2011, how many have *(a)* appealed the decision and *(b)* subsequently been successful in their appeal. [81591]

Mr Blunt: Appeals made by defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the public disorder from 6 to 9 August, as at 16 November 2011 (latest available figures), can be viewed in the following table:

Appeals made by defendants found guilty of offences relating to the public disorder between 6 and 9 August 2011—data as of 16 November 2011[1,2,3]

	Appeal court		
	Crown court	*Court of Appeal*	*Total*
Appeals made	22	43	65
Of which:			
Successful, sentence reduced	16	4	20
Abandoned/ refused/ dismissed	5	18	23
Awaiting hearing or judgment	1	21	22

[1] In order to allow timely reporting of statistics on defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences resulting from the 6 to 9 August period of public disorder a dataset has been compiled from manual returns from the courts. This table was compiled from data received by 16 November 2011.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Civil Proceedings

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has considered introducing a civil cases review commission. [81995]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government have no plans to introduce a civil cases review commission. Unlike criminal cases civil cases are disputes between private parties. If a party is unhappy with the outcome of a cases it is for them to determine whether to take any further steps, including the whether to apply to the court for permission to appeal.

Crime: Victims

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the findings of the Victims' Views of Court and Sentencing report by the Commissioner for Victims' and Witnesses in England and Wales; and what steps he will be taking in response to the findings. [82115]

Mr Blunt: The Government are giving careful consideration to the findings of the Victims' Commissioner's report on victims' views of court and sentencing. We are determined to ensure that victims are supported in the best way possible, and that victims who need it receive reparation from offenders and have access to restorative justice. The Government are reviewing these issues, and will be publishing proposals for consultation in due course.

Criminal Injuries Compensation: Sexual Offences

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many *(a)* rape and *(b)* adult sexual assault applications compensation has been refused or reduced by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board due to (i) previous convictions or other bad character, (ii) the applicant having been found not to be a victim of crime, (iii) the applicant not fulfilling the requirement of reporting the matter to the police without delay, (iv) the applicant not supporting a prosecution and (v) any other reason in each of the last five years. [81421]

Mr Djanogly: CICA does not have figures showing how many people were refused compensation categorised by reference to specific crimes. The Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme (the scheme), which was approved by Parliament in 2008, provides for awards to be assessed primarily by reference to criminal injuries. Injury descriptions, from the scheme's 'tariff of injuries', are therefore used as the primary basis for calculating and recording payments actually made.

CICA can produce figures based on awards paid. The tariff contains several injury descriptions that could apply to people who have been sexually assaulted, a subset of those descriptions are the most likely to apply to victims of rape. The figures CICA is able to produce, which follow, are therefore based on claims where they paid awards to adult victims for these injury descriptions. Figures are not included for those who were found not to have been victims of a crime, since CICA would not pay an award in those circumstances.

Number of reduced awards for rape/other sexual assault

	Convictions or character		Delay in reporting		Not supporting a prosecution		Other	
Financial year	Rape	Other	Rape	Other	Rape	Other	Rape	Other
2006-07	42	11	3	1	4	2	81	2
2007-08	30	20	2	1	31	1	14	4
2008-09	44	20	1	3	2	0	21	0
2009-10	49	27	0	2	3	1	0	0
2010-11	71	34	3	0	2	1	0	0

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* rape and *(b)* adult sexual assault victims have applied for compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in each of the last five years; and how many received full awards of the recommended amount. [81422]

Mr Djanogly: CICA does not have complete figures for how many people made applications under the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme (the scheme) categorised by reference to specific crimes. The scheme, which was approved by Parliament in 2008, provides for payments to be made by reference to criminal injuries. Injury descriptions, from the scheme's 'tariff of injuries', are therefore used as the primary basis for calculating awards so they are only reliably recorded once CICA has assessed someone as eligible to receive the compensation payable for that injury.

CICA can produce figures based on awards paid. The tariff contains several injury descriptions that could apply to people who have been sexually assaulted, a subset of those descriptions are the most likely to apply to victims of rape. The figures CICA is able to produce, which follow, are therefore based on claims where they paid awards to adult victims for these injury descriptions.

Number of full awards

Financial year	Rape	Other sexual assault
2006-07	377	490
2007-08	504	522
2008-09	773	573
2009-10	726	525
2010-11	854	527

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* rape and *(b)* adult sexual assault victims who were refused compensation by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority were granted it by the First Tier Tribunal in each of the last five years. [81423]

Mr Djanogly: Awards under the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme are based on the injuries people sustain. Injury descriptions, from the Criminal Injuries

Compensation scheme's 'tariff of injuries', are used as the primary basis for paying compensation.

CICA can produce figures based on awards paid. The tariff contains several injury descriptions that could apply to people who have been sexually assaulted, a subset of those descriptions are the most likely to apply to victims of rape. The following table shows the number of awards the Tribunals Service have made for sexual offence injury descriptions in cases CICA initially refused in each of the last five financial years.

Number of appeals awards following CICA refusal

Financial year	*Rape*	*Other sexual assault*
2006-07	23	12
2007-08	22	15
2008-09	25	10
2009-10	23	8
2010-11	21	7

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority will refuse *(a)* at first instance, *(b)* at review and *(c)* on appeal claims for compensation by victims of rape or adult sexual assault where there has not been (i) a complaint to police, (ii) a charge brought or (iii) a prosecution. [81443]

Mr Djanogly: Each case is dealt with on its own merits using the evidence available, such as police and medical evidence, and the criteria do not change when a case is at review or appeal. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008 makes clear that it is not necessary for an assailant to be convicted for a victim to get compensation.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) will take to determine whether a claimant for compensation alleging rape or sexual assault has been a victim of crime in cases where there has not been *(a)* a complaint to police, *(b)* a person charged and *(c)* a prosecution; and what steps CICA will take to make such a determination in cases where the defendant was acquitted at trial. [81536]

Mr Djanogly: Each case is dealt with on its own merits using the evidence available, such as police and medical evidence. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008 (the Scheme) places the onus on the claimant to establish on the balance of probabilities that an offence has been committed. That is not the criminal standard, and it is not necessary for any charge or conviction to have been secured.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what social media presence his Department has. [80829]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Department has a presence on the following social media channels:

Twitter
Youtube
Flickr
LinkedIn
Disqus
Getsatisfaction
AddThis

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the drug recovery wings that his Department is piloting; and if he will make a statement. [81889]

Mr Blunt: Drug recovery wing (DRW) pilots have been launched in five prisons. An implementation study has already commenced and an interim report will be available in July 2012. A Department of Health evaluation study is expected to be commissioned on an open competitive tender basis and to start in autumn 2012.

Employment Tribunals

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of employment tribunal cases of the introduction of a charge for registering a claim. [81429]

Mr Djanogly: We are in the process of developing proposals for the introduction of fees into the employment tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunal and options are still being finalised. We will be consulting on our proposals shortly. The consultation document will set out the options for proposed fee structures and the indicative fee levels which might be applied. No decision will be made on the level of fees to be paid until that consultation has been completed. The impact assessment which will accompany the consultation document will provide details of the estimated impact of the introduction of fees on the number of claims received by employment tribunals.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes have been made to the budget of the Employment Tribunal Service since May 2010; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such changes on the average time for concluding employment tribunals. [81431]

Mr Djanogly: Employment tribunals (ETs) are administered by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), which has a central operating budget. The direct element of that budget in relation to ETs was £60.9 million for 2010-11 and £59 million for 2011-12. These budget figures do not include apportioned overheads. No detailed budgets have yet been agreed or finalised for future financial years.

The reduction in budget allocation between 2010-11 and 2011-12 reflects the HMCTS drive for continual efficiency improvements. It also reflected a slight decrease in workloads before the ETs. The assessment made by HMCTS is that the reduction should not lead to any lengthier period between receipt and disposal of cases. Indeed, the latest available management information shows performance against timeliness targets has improved in the first quarter 2011-12 to 62%, relative to 58% in the same quarter of 2010-11.

HMCTS publishes annual and quarterly statistics which cover workloads and performance against timeliness measures, including (where available) historic trends. This material is available on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/index.htm

The most recent published information is in respect of the first quarter of 2011-12 (April to June).

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the total cost of HM Courts and Tribunals Service E-working project has been; [81474]

(2) how many claims were filed by HM Courts and Tribunals Service on the E-working system in each quarter since its inception; [81475]

(3) what the original target date was for completion of the HM Courts and Tribunals Service E-working project; and what his most recent estimate is of the likely completion date for the system. [81476]

Mr Djanogly: The costs covering the period from November 2008 (project start) to September 2010 (departure of the original development team) were £5,848,000 and these costs have been confirmed in a response to a Freedom of Information Act request number 70941.

From October 2010 to September 2011 the costs were £1,155,796.

Total costs to date are therefore £7,003,796.

Costs for October 2011 onwards are still under discussion between HMCTS and their suppliers as part of the scoping and planning exercise referred to the following table.

The number of claims that have been filed electronically since the inception of the e-Working system in 2009 is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*All e-working (electronic and scanned)*	*Filed electronically*	*Totals*
2009-10			
Q1	6	4	10
Q2	38	51	89
Q3	110	41	151
Q4	337	69	406
2010-11			
Q1	540	42	582
Q2	1,495	33	1,528
Q3	1,826	21	1,847
Q4	1,979	109	2,088
2011-12			
Q1	[1]4,369	7	4,376
Q2	2,136	21	2,157

[1] High volume of HM Revenue and Customs petitions filed in this quarter

The e-Working system was originally due to complete in March 2010, with roll-out of an electronic filing, document management, payment and listings capability for jurisdictions moving into the Rolls Building. The core e-Filing and Document Management parts of the system are now live in those jurisdictions and online payment and listings capabilities are going through an iterative development and testing cycle. HMCTS is currently working with its suppliers to agree a new package of system enhancements and upgrades including those capabilities and new features such as a web-based end user interface. The scope and timetable have not yet been agreed.

Official Solicitor and Public Trustee Office: Freedom of Information

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to bring the Office of the Official Solicitor within the jurisdiction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [81839]

Mr Djanogly: We are currently considering the position of the Office of the Official Solicitor under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. I will write to the hon. Member with further information on this point once our consideration is complete.

Prisoners' Release: Plymouth

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders with addresses in Plymouth on conviction were released to addresses in Plymouth in the last 12 months. [81547]

Mr Blunt: A total of 89,924 offenders were released from custodial sentences in 2010. It is not possible to say how many of these had an address in Plymouth at both the time of conviction and on release because full address information is not held centrally. The information will be held locally by offender managers, however to gather it would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether armed forces veterans are identified routinely on reception to prisons in England and Wales. [81897]

Mr Blunt: Prison reception staff are not required to ask newly arrived prisoners whether they have served in the armed forces. However, prisoners have the opportunity to discuss aspects of their background with staff during the induction and assessment processes. Governors of more than 100 prisons have made resources available to the Veterans in Custody Support scheme, which encourages prisoners who have served in the armed services to disclose this, if they chose to do so.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners of each nationality are being held in HM Prison *(a)* Brixton, *(b)* Feltham, *(c)* Holloway, *(d)* Isis, *(e)* Latchmere House, *(f)* Pentonville, *(g)* Wandsworth and *(h)* Wormwood Scrubs. [81488]

Mr Blunt: The following tables show the number of foreign national prisoners of each nationality being held in each of the listed prisons, as at 30 September 2011. HMP Latchmere House is now closed and was not holding any prisoners on 30 September 2011.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Population in prison by selected establishment and nationality status, 30 September 2011

Establishment	British nationals	Foreign nationals	Nationality not recorded	Total population
Brixton	523	233	19	775
Feltham	537	151	36	724
Holloway	374	149	37	560
Isis[1]	458	75	5	538
Pentonville	876	379	46	1,301
Wandsworth	1,024	547	109	1,680
Wormwood Scrubs	677	433	123	1,233

[1] HMP & YOI Isis, which opened on 28 July 2010, is sited within the perimeter wall of HMP Belmarsh.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Table 2: Foreign national prison population by nationality and selected establishment, 30 September 2011

	Brixton	Feltham	Holloway	Isis	Pentonville	Wandsworth	Wormwood Scrubs	Total
Afghanistan	3	13	1	1	2	3	5	28
Albania	0	0	1	1	6	7	8	23
Algeria	2	7	0	1	8	13	8	39
Angola	4	1	0	0	2	1	2	10
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Armenia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Australia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bangladesh	11	5	2	1	13	7	1	40
Barbados	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bermuda	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bolivia	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Brazil	4	0	4	0	5	2	4	19
Bulgaria	0	1	11	0	2	5	3	22
Burundi	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	5
Cameroon	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Central African Republic	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	5
China	1	1	3	2	1	6	3	17
Colombia	6	0	2	1	2	4	5	20
Congo	4	8	1	1	11	4	6	35
Costa Rica	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Croatia	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cyprus	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
Czech Republic	3	3	4	0	0	8	1	19
Denmark	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4
Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Ethiopia	5	2	0	0	3	2	3	15
French Guiana	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
France	6	3	4	4	1	16	4	38
Gambia	1	0	0	0	1	5	1	8
Georgia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Germany	1	1	0	1	2	6	2	13
Ghana	5	2	1	3	7	9	8	35
Gibraltar	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Greece	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
Grenada	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Guinea	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2

Table 2: Foreign national prison population by nationality and selected establishment, 30 September 2011

	Brixton	Feltham	Holloway	Isis	Pentonville	Wandsworth	Wormwood Scrubs	Total
Guyana	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	5
Hungary	1	0	0	0	2	8	4	15
India	2	0	1	0	8	6	49	66
Iran	1	3	1	0	3	8	10	26
Iraq	1	4	0	0	1	6	3	15
Irish Republic	13	5	3	2	21	16	24	84
Israel	2	2	1	0	1	3	4	13
Italy	0	0	2	1	3	4	5	15
Ivory Coast	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	10
Jamaica	37	18	15	15	35	29	15	164
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kenya	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	8
Kuwait	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	5
Latvia	1	0	2	0	5	19	7	34
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Liberia	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0	1	0	1	0	3	3	8
Lithuania	9	2	4	5	32	29	11	92
Macedonia	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Malaysia	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Mauritania	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mauritius	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mexico	0	0	2	0	1	4	4	11
Mongolia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Montserrat	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Morocco	2	2	2	0	4	6	4	20
Mozambique	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Namibia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Nepal	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Netherlands	2	6	2	0	1	3	12	26
Niger	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	7
Nigeria	12	5	9	6	25	22	23	102
Pakistan	5	0	0	0	13	12	3	33
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	6
Poland	15	2	7	2	27	99	43	195
Portugal	11	7	1	2	8	8	7	44
Romania	8	9	18	5	31	57	31	159
Russian Federation	0	0	3	0	2	6	5	16
Rwanda	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Senegal	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Serbia and Montenegro	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Sierra Leone	4	1	0	1	5	2	2	15
Slovakia	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	7
Somalia	10	13	6	4	19	16	34	102
South Africa	2	1	2	1	1	5	1	13
Spain	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	6
Sri Lanka	3	0	1	0	3	11	8	26
St Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
St Lucia	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	5
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Sudan	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Suriname	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sweden	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Switzerland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Tanzania	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Thailand	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Table 2: Foreign national prison population by nationality and selected establishment, 30 September 2011

	Brixton	Feltham	Holloway	Isis	Pentonville	Wandsworth	Wormwood Scrubs	Total
Trinidad and Tobago	2	1	2	0	3	1	2	11
Tunisia	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	5
Turkey	7	2	1	0	10	5	3	28
Uganda	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	12
Ukraine	3	0	1	0	1	1	3	9
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
United States	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
Uzbekistan	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Vietnam	4	5	5	0	6	4	4	28
Western Sahara	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yemen, Republic of	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Zimbabwe	0	2	1	2	2	2	0	9
Total	233	151	149	75	379	547	433	1,967

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners have been repatriated from HM Prison *(a)* Brixton, *(b)* Feltham, *(c)* Holloway, *(d)* Isis, *(e)* Latchmere House, *(f)* Pentonville, *(g)* Wandsworth and *(h)* Wormwood Scrubs since May 2010. [81580]

Mr Blunt: In 2010, 5,235 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported from the United Kingdom at the end of their sentence. Between May 2010 and 8 November 2011, a total of 57 prisoners were repatriated from England and Wales to complete their sentences in their countries of origin. Of the 57 prisoners, two applied for repatriation while resident in HMP Wandsworth and two applied while resident in HMP Wormwood Scrubs.

All prisoners repatriated from England and Wales are taken to HMP Wandsworth (male prisoners), HMP Holloway (female prisoners), and HMP Belmarsh, (high security prisoners), immediately prior to their removal from the United Kingdom.

Probation: Ex-servicemen

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation trusts have appointed a veterans link to ensure armed forces personnel are directed to relevant welfare agencies. [81879]

Mr Blunt: It is the responsibility of each probation trust to make arrangements to address the needs of offenders who have previously served in the armed forces. To date, 18 of the 35 probation trusts have appointed a veterans link. The remaining trusts are alive to the needs of ex-service personnel and are looking at ways to address them.

Supreme Court: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater diversity and gender equality in the Supreme Court. [82219]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: On 21 November, I issued a public consultation on judicial diversity and appointments. It includes a number of proposals that will encourage greater diversity in the Supreme Court.

EDUCATION

Child Care

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to promote flexibility and choice in child care provision. [80147]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure free early education places, of 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year, for all three and four-year-olds. The early years single funding formula reforms, introduced by the Government in April, ensure that funding for the free early education entitlement follows the child and is driven by parental demand. Places are available in a wide range of providers including maintained nursery classes, pre-schools, full day nurseries and registered childminders to enable parents to choose the most appropriate setting for their child.

The Department is also funding trials in 18 local authorities to support the expansion of free early years education to disadvantaged two-year-olds from 2013, and a number of these trials are testing new approaches to increasing flexibility. The trials will run until 31 March 2012.

We are currently consulting on proposals to make the entitlement more flexible to increase take up and better meet families' needs. This would enable the free hours to be taken between 7 am and 7 pm (rather than between 8 am and 6 pm as currently), with a maximum of 10 free hours per day. We also propose to enable parents to take up the full 15 hour entitlement over two days (rather than the current minimum of three days).

Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient child care to meet the needs of working parents. The Government are keen to encourage local authorities to do more to keep parents informed about what they

are doing to meet this duty. We are consulting on whether a local annual report would be a more effective and meaningful way of enabling parents to hold their local authority to account for the choice and availability of suitable child care locally.

The consultation is available on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations

and will run for 12 weeks.

In addition, the Department is providing funding through the voluntary and community sector grants programme to the Daycare Trust to promote the benefits of early education and child care to parents, and to 4Children to foster the diversity of early years provision and choice for parents.

Children: Hearing Impairment

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what information his Department collects on the number of people qualified as specialist social workers for deaf children in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last three years; [80943]

(2) what the average number was of deaf children supported by a specialist social worker for deaf children in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last three years; [80935]

(3) how many specialist workers for deaf children there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last three years. [81025]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not hold information centrally about the numbers of social workers and specialist workers working with deaf children. Data from the General Teaching Council for England show that there are currently 896 active teachers who hold the mandatory qualification for teaching pupils with a hearing impairment.

Children's Centres: Leicester

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children have participated in Sure Start services in Leicester South constituency since its introduction. [81305]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Department does not collect this information. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient children's centres in their area to meet local need, so far as is reasonably practicable. It is for local authorities to commission children's centres and to monitor and evaluate the use and impact of their services.

Home-Start

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with representatives from Home-Start; what assessment he has made of the effects of Home-Start on families in Norfolk; and if he will make a statement. [81327]

Sarah Teather: Home-Start UK receives a grant from the Department for Education to support its provision of services to local Home-Start schemes. Officials regularly meet Home-Start UK to discuss work under this grant agreement to ensure financial propriety and value for money.

Local Home-Start schemes provide vulnerable families, who may feel isolated from the local community, with practical and emotional support. No assessment of the effects of Home-Start on families in Norfolk has been commissioned by the Department for Education.

School Meals: Standards

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to commission research on adherence to nutritional standards for food served in free schools. [81136]

Sarah Teather: Free schools have the same legal status as academies which are not bound by the nutritional standards, although the standards provide a benchmark of good practice. The Secretary of State has asked the School Food Trust to look at the approach taken by academies to providing healthy school food for their pupils, including a mixture of established and new academies. We have no plans for separate work looking just at free schools.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Conditions of Employment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the potential effects on agricultural workers of proposed changes to employment regulations. [80894]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to reviewing employment enforcement and compliance law over the lifetime of the current Parliament. As part of this process, DEFRA officials work closely with colleagues in other Departments to assess the effect of employment law proposals on agricultural workers. However, there have been no recent cross-departmental ministerial discussions on this issue.

Agriculture: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to ensure an unproblematic transition from classic agri-environment agreements schemes such as the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship schemes to successor agri-environmental schemes such as the Uplands Entry Level Schemes and Higher Level Stewardship within the constraints of available staffing and funding. [81238]

Mr Paice: Natural England takes a proactive approach to ensure there is a seamless transfer for farmers with expiring Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreements into the appropriate Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreement. That approach involves contacting agreement holders at least a year before their agreement is due to end and offering free advice about their options.

To date, 85% of the area formerly under an ESA or CSS agreement has successfully transferred into an ES agreement.

Not all ESA/CSS agreement holders will be eligible for Higher Level Stewardship and, where this is the case, farmers are being strongly advised to consider signing up to the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) strands of ES. Natural England offers free specialist assistance through individual farm visits to those considering ELS to assist with appropriate option choices and provide information on the application process.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that Environmental Stewardship schemes take account of both the preservation of traditional farming and of conservation. [81245]

Mr Paice: Environmental Stewardship (ES) has a pivotal role in DEFRA's priorities to enhance the natural environment and to improve the quality of life.

ES objectives cover both wildlife conservation and the preservation of traditional farming practices, including: the maintenance of important traditional landscape features such as hedgerows and dry stone walls; encouraging conservation of existing traditional orchards and planting of new trees using traditional varieties; protection of the historic environment (including protection of archaeological features and restoration and maintenance of traditional farm buildings); and protection of natural resources (through improvements to water quality by reducing soil erosion and surface water run-off).

Following the 2010 spending review, spending on Higher Level Stewardship, which is targeted at delivering the highest possible environmental benefits, will increase by more than 80% by 2013-14 compared to 2010-11. This represents a significant endorsement of the scheme and its potential. It ensures the protection and maintenance of the environmental benefits delivered to date, and allows for further growth of these benefits.

DEFRA is continuing to work with Natural England and stakeholders to improve ES' environmental effectiveness and value for money.

Agriculture: Sky Lanterns

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the risks to crops and farm animals posed by sky lanterns. [80779]

Mr Paice: We are aware of the concern among farmers and the wider agricultural community about the potential risks of lanterns. We are continuing to work with other Departments and the agricultural industry to address them.

Sky lanterns can seriously injure or even kill cattle because the animals sometimes eat the lanterns' wireframes. There is also the problem of litter caused when the smouldering remnants of lanterns fall into farmers' fields.

In the summer I asked the British Hospitality Association to advise hotels, restaurants and other venues to discourage customers from using sky lanterns because of the problems they are causing in the countryside. We also take steps to make the public aware of the problems which sky lanterns can cause before using them.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of legal advice as to whether a ban on wild animals in circuses would be lawful under *(a)* EU law generally and *(b)* UK directive 2006/123/EC. [80262]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert), during the oral answers to questions on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 467-68.

Animal Welfare: Dogs

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to encourage consistency in the fees charged by local authorities for the return of stray dogs. [80723]

Mr Paice: Under the Environmental Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992, local authorities are entitled to charge the owner of a stray dog all expenses incurred during the dog's detention, plus a prescribed amount of £25. The length of each dog's detention may vary and additional costs such as veterinary treatment may also be incurred. It is therefore difficult for every local authority to charge a similar amount.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of dogs placed in animal welfare establishments in each of the last five years. [80724]

Mr Paice: The Government do not keep figures for the number of dogs handed into independent animal welfare establishments. However, the Minister for Animal Welfare, Lord Taylor, has frequent meetings with representatives of these organisations and we are aware of the rise in the number of dogs that they are caring for.

Biodiversity: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much her Department has spent on measures to protect biodiversity in each year since 2000; and what her Department plans to spend on such measures in each year until 2014-15; [80139]

(2) what the budget is for implementation of Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services; and how that budget will be spent. [80309]

Richard Benyon: Details of the main elements of biodiversity expenditure are provided in the following table. These figures represent spend by DEFRA programmes and the wider DEFRA network but do not include staff costs. They also include total agri-environment scheme expenditure, of which a major share is judged to be spent on biodiversity.

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
									Expenditure (£ million)	
DEFRA: Agri-environment schemes	80.1	81.3	104.9	129.8	167.8	187.2	254.6	323.3	349.4	351.1
Other DEFRA expenditure:										
Biodiversity Programme	n/a	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5	2.3	2.8	3.2
Research	0.2	1.2	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.9	6.5	5.0	6.3	5.8
Environment Agency	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	5.9	10.5	11.6	7.3	23.5	25.5
Forestry Commission	18.1	20.1	15.1	14.4	14.7	17.7	22.8	28.1	33.3	32.0
Natural England	34.0	43.9	57.2	57.2	55.5	57.3	54.1	52.7	52.4	56.9
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.1
DEFRA network total	137.3	151.5	184.8	208.3	246.9	276.5	353.9	420.8	469.4	476.6
DEFRA Global Biodiversity expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	7.0	10.1	11.0	6.7	7.1
Kew—UK spend	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1
Kew—Global spend	20.4	22.1	22.9	28.8	32.6	28.2	30.6	30.6	33.9	28.8

We do not have a single dedicated budget for biodiversity protection measures, nor "Biodiversity 2020". Funding for both comes from a wide range of sources within DEFRA, and from arm's length bodies and beyond, and much of the contributing action goes beyond the measures directly focussed on biodiversity. In view of this and the current financial climate it is not possible to predict what these budgets will be in future, nor what proportion will be spent on biodiversity measures. We are developing a delivery plan for "Biodiversity 2020", to be completed in early 2012, which will set out the actions to be taken to implement the strategy.

Biofuels: Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to prohibit the combustion of chromated copper arsenate wood in biomass power stations. [81509]

Richard Benyon: Plants that use waste fuels, including treated wood containing heavy metals such as chromium, arsenic and copper, are already subject to the very stringent operating requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC). This provides a high level of protection for the environment and human health.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to measure levels of *(a)* black carbon and *(b)* arsenic emissions from biomass generating plants in the UK. [81510]

Richard Benyon: If a biomass generating plant has a rated thermal input of greater than 20 megawatts, it is subject to regulation under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. These require the regulator (the local authority for plants of less than 50 MW, otherwise the Environment Agency) to set emission limit values and associated monitoring requirements for any pollutant likely to be emitted in significant quantities. Emission limit values for particulate matter act as a surrogate for black carbon emissions. There is currently no internationally agreed measurement standard for black carbon and definitions of what constitutes black carbon vary.

If a biomass generating plant, irrespective of its rated thermal input, burns waste (other than untreated waste wood and certain other specific types of waste), it must also meet the stringent requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC). This includes a requirement to carry out at least two measurements a year of arsenic emissions to air.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings officials in her Department have had to discuss the proposed badger cull based on shooting since January 2011; and with whom. [80781]

Mr Paice: In addition to internal meetings, since January 2011, DEFRA officials have met representatives from the following organisations to discuss the proposals for badger control:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Badger Trust
British Association of Shooting and Conservation
British Veterinary Association/British Cattle Veterinary Association
Country Land and Business Association
DEFRA's Science Advisory Council
Independent scientific experts

National Beef Association
National Farmers Union
National Gamekeepers' Organisation
National Trust
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
TB Epidemiology and Wildlife Risks Programme Advisory Group
TB Eradication Group for England
TB Science Advisory Body
Tenant Farmers Association
Wildlife Trusts.

Other Government Departments and agencies:

Home Office
Cabinet Office
Sir John Beddington (Government's Chief Scientific Adviser)
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Food and Environment Research Agency
Natural England.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department plan to have to discuss the proposed badger cull based on shooting in the next six months; and with whom. [80782]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), is planning to meet again with key stakeholder groups before announcing a decision on the badger control proposals. It is likely that officials will also meet with a number of key stakeholders, but there are currently no firm plans for such meetings.

Canal and River Trust: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she plans to take to address the projected funding deficit for British Waterways as a result of its moving from public to charitable ownership; [81858]

(2) what plans she has for Government funding and grants to British Waterways after it converts to charitable status. [81859]

Richard Benyon: The majority of funding for British Waterways comes from its commercial activities and through its licensing operations rather than from Government grant funding. During the last spending review period, grant funding contributed between 30% and 35% of British Waterways' revenue that is spent on the waterways in England and Wales.

In the current, tough fiscal environment, the Government will give the Canal and River Trust (CRT) the best possible start. We have already committed to transfer British Waterways' commercial property portfolio, which is valued at £460 million, to the CRT, and to long-term funding at the 2014-15 level of £39 million to 2022-23 inclusive. The amount and terms of the funding agreement are currently subject to negotiation between the CRT trustees and the Government.

The transfer of British Waterways to the charitable sector creates new opportunities for growing income from private and commercial sources, making efficiencies and forming supportive partnerships. The charity will also be able to borrow against its assets and so expand income in the longer term. The move will, therefore, improve the long-term financial sustainability of the waterways.

Carbon Emissions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to assist local authorities to establish local low emission zones by providing support with *(a)* costs and *(b)* enforcement; and if she will make a statement. [82078]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA already publishes guidance to local authorities that wish to establish low emission zones. It includes advice on selecting methods for implementation, practical issues that have arisen in implementing previous schemes, and how to appraise potential costs and air quality benefits. We have also provided funding, through the air quality grant scheme, to several local authorities to support investigations into local low emission zones.

The Government are working with local authorities and others to explore the feasibility of providing further support to local authorities on low emission zones.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many items of correspondence her Department has received on dangerous dogs since June 2010. [80993]

Mr Paice: The data requested are shown in the following table.

Type	*Number*
Letters received from the public	204
E-mails received from the public	333
Letters received from Members of Parliament	423
Letters received from organisations	35
Total	995

Note:
Data downloaded from DEFRA's Management Information System (Contact) on 10 November 2011.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the estimated cost to the public purse is of kennelling dangerous dogs seized under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last five years; [81044]

(2) how many dogs have been seized by police in England and Wales under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 since June 2010; and what the estimated cost to the public purse is of such police action. [81047]

Mr Paice: The cost to police forces across England of kennelling dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 2005 cannot be provided because these figures are not held centrally. However, I am able to

provide a breakdown of the cost to the Metropolitan police of kennelling dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act[1] 19911 in each year since 2005, which is provided in the following table:

[1] The figures in the following table provide a breakdown of kennelling and care costs for all dogs, not just dogs seized under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. However, over 85% of the dogs seized by the Metropolitan police are done so under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Cost to Metropolitan police of kennelling dogs

£

Financial year	*Boarding*	*Veterinary fees*	*Transport*	*Total*
2005-06	148,922.00	250.00	0	149,172.00
2006-07	403,185.18	1,340.00	0	404,525.18
2007-08	834,251.41	1,370.00	0	835,621.41
2008-09	1,253,401.03	17,677.89	5,198.00	1,276,276.92
2009-10	1,750,215.27	245,657.56	93,177.74	2,089,050.57

Source:
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Status Dog Unit

The cost to the Metropolitan police and to police across England of seizing dogs cannot be provided because use of police time is not recorded in this way.

Departmental ICT

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of her Department's new Sam IT system. [80774]

Mr Paice: Release 6 (R6) of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratorie's Agency's Sam system went live on 26 September 2011. There have been some issues with the implementation of the system.

The AHVLA and their IT services contractor are working closely to resolve all the issues and are confident that the Sam system will be functioning normally by mid- December, with significant improvements week by week.

Departmental Relocation

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* relocated and *(b)* agreed to relocation in the last 12 months; and to which areas of the UK. [74897]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not relocated any civil servants, nor agreed to relocate any civil servants, in the last 12 months.

Public Sector: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department and the bodies for which she is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78055]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the number of staff in core-DEFRA and its Executive Agencies (The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Rural Payments Agency, Food and Environment Research Agency and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) with base pay of more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000.

Organisation	*Salary band (£)*	*Number of staff*
DEFRA	£65,000 to £94,999	148
	£95,000 to £139,999	19
	£140,000to £174,999	2
	£175,000+	—
Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency	£65,000 to £94,999	9
	£95,000 to £139,999	2
	£140,000 to £174,999	—
	£175,000+	—
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	£65,000 to £94,999	3
	£95,000 to £139,999	1
	£140,000 to £174,999	—
	£175,000+	—
Rural Payments Agency	£65,000 to £94,999	3
	£95,000 to £139,999	1
	£140,000 to £174,999	1
	£175,000+	—
Food and Environment Research Agency	£65,000 to £94,999	3
	£95,000 to £139,999	3
	£140,000 to £174,999	—
	£175,000+	—
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	£65,000 to £94,999	3
	£95,000 to £139,999	1
	£140,000 to £174,999	—
	£175,000+	—

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she receives any external funding for *(a)* her ministerial office and *(b)* her advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [78020]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), receives no external funding for either *(a)* her ministerial office or *(b)* her advisers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates the *(a)* Green Infrastructure Partnership, *(b)* Natural Capital Committee and *(c)* Ecosystem Markets Task Force have met. [81473]

Richard Benyon: The Green Infrastructure Partnership was launched on 11 October with many partners in attendance. Officials have had numerous bilateral meetings with partners and we are organising the first partnership workshop for 5 December this year.

We are currently recruiting the chair and members of the Natural Capital Committee, and expect that its first meeting will be in early 2012.

The Ecosystem Markets Task Force is launching on 23 November at the Nomura HQ in London and the first meeting of the taskforce is due in early December. There has already been significant pre-work with the chair, members and the secretariat to ensure that the taskforce gets off to a good start.

Cyber- Security

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to improve cyber-security in relation to her Department's estate; and if she will make a statement. [75136]

Richard Benyon: The Government take cyber-security very seriously and it has been categorised as a tier 1 threat to UK national security. £650 million is being invested over the next four years in a National Cyber Security Programme, working across Departments and with the private sector, international partners and citizens to improve the UK's cyber-security capability.

DEFRA routinely assesses the prevailing threats to its ICT systems and applies appropriate and proportionate measures in accordance with the Government standards set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF). These standards are aligned with industry best practice approaches.

It is not in the interest of national security to make public details of particular improvements in relation to individual Departments as it may expose vulnerabilities to those who may seek to exploit them.

Dogs: Tagging

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the adequacy of regulations governing the microchipping of dogs. [80721]

Mr Paice: There are certain circumstances where microchipping of dogs is a legal requirement.

Under the current Pet Travel Scheme rules, all dogs entering the UK must be fitted with a microchip as part of animal health requirements to keep the UK free from rabies and certain other diseases. Identification is mandatory for pets (cats, dogs and ferrets) moving under EC Regulation 998/2003, which lays down conditions that must be complied with when moving pets between European member states and into the European Union from non-EU countries. The UK brings its procedures into line with the European Union on 1 January 2012.

Under the Welfare of Racing Greyhound Regulations 2010, dogs must be microchipped to take part in races and trials. The greyhound regulations are due to be reviewed in 2015.

Under the Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) (Regulations) 2007, it is a requirement for a legally docked dog to be identified by a microchip. The tail docking regulations were looked at as part of the review undertaken by DEFRA into the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. DEFRA consulted a wide range of stakeholders, but no evidence was presented relating to these regulations.

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended 1997), one of the requirements, under which an individual prohibited type dog may be permitted to be entered on to the Index of Exempted Dogs, is that it is microchipped. The adequacy of the current legislation and the wider issue of dangerous dogs and irresponsible dog ownership is currently being looked at.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to increase the numbers of dogs which are micro-chipped. [80722]

Mr Paice: The Government support the voluntary microchipping of dogs. DEFRA Ministers and officials are currently engaged with key stakeholders from wider government, the police, animal welfare and dog keeping organisations about how to promote more responsible dog ownership and tackle dangerous dogs. One of the proposals under consideration is the compulsory microchipping of dogs.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the future of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. [81190]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the future of independent environmental and conservation advice to farmers in the event that the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group closes. [80780]

Mr Paice: Pursuing the twin objectives of a competitive farming sector which plays a full part in protecting and improving the environment is a priority for this Government, and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) epitomises that dual purpose.

The Farming Regulation Task Force identified the importance of ensuring that the environmental messages we give to farmers and their advisors are clear and well-prioritised. In the Natural Environment White Paper we have committed to undertake a review of advice and incentives for farmers. In taking this work forward we are very conscious of the role of independent environmental and conservation advice providers, such as FWAG.

Officials from DEFRA and Natural England have been in close contact with FWAG over recent weeks to establish the facts of the current situation and understand the implications. Now that FWAG has gone into administration I know that local groups are examining ways in which they can continue their work.

FWAG played an important role in the delivery of advice for a number of Government initiatives, including helping farmers to participate in agri-environment schemes and the campaign for the Farmed Environment. The need for this work will continue and independent advice delivered by organisations like FWAG will continue to play a key role in supporting and developing British farming.

Marine Conservation Zones

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's Guidance on Selection and Designation of MCZs (Note 1), September 2010, if she will use the best information currently available as the criterion for her designation of marine conservation zones. [80631]

Richard Benyon: The Government's policy is that the best available evidence should support the designation and management of marine conservation zones (MCZs).

It is important that there is an adequate evidence base if successful well-managed MCZs are to be established. DEFRA wants to make sound decisions on which sites to take forward for designation, so we have ensured and will continue to ensure, that quality assurance processes are put in place.

It was always foreseen that Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee would examine the adequacy of the evidence for the site recommendations produced by the four regional MCZ projects. DEFRA will also be commissioning additional work to support MCZ designation, including an in-depth review of the evidence base for all the regional projects' site recommendations and committing additional resources to carrying out sea bed and habitat monitoring.

As part of the MCZ process, the Government are also addressing the recommendations of the independent review of the evidence process for selecting Special Areas of Conservation published in July 2011. The processes agreed with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee comprise three phases which would be timed to enable recommendations to be taken into account in formulating their final advice on MCZs:

(1) an independent review of the protocols by which they will formulate their advice;

(2) an independent review of the evidence base supporting regional project recommendations; and

(3) an independent review of the draft advice from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, which will then be addressed in finalising their advice to DEFRA.

We will continue the work to ensure that the recommendations and decisions on MCZ designation and how sites will be managed are based on the best available science and evidence.

Meat: Overseas Trade

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to support the UK meat industry to access new overseas markets. [80901]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is taking a number of steps to increase exports of meat, and to promote UK food more generally.

In doing so, DEFRA works closely with a number of partners to identify and target resources on key market negotiations about animal and public health issues for countries outside the European Union. These partners include industry through the UK Export Certification Partnership and Export Certification User Groups, foreign Governments, other Government Departments in the UK, as well as the Welsh Government and other Devolved Governments.

I am delighted to say that exports of meat and meat products rose in the first half of 2011 by 15%. The rising figure is the comparison with the same period in 2010.

The UK Trade and Industry Strategy and DEFRA's business plan both contain commitments. During his recent visit to Russia, the Prime Minister personally placed discussions about lamb and beef exports high on the agenda, demonstrating the priority the Government attaches to the issue.

Milk: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the UK's milk was imported in the latest period for which figures are available. [74923]

Mr Paice: In 2010, the UK imported 88 million litres of raw milk and 125 million litres of liquid drinking milk.

The figures in the following table show the UK production and supply of all milk products on a liquid milk equivalent basis expressed in litres for 2009, the latest year for which these figures are available on this basis. All imports and exports of milk products are included here other than milk products in composite products, e.g. baked goods.

	UK liquid milk production (billion)	*Whole milk equivalent of milk and milk product imports (billion)*	*Whole milk equivalent of milk and milk product exports (billion)*	*Total new supply (billion)*	*Production as % of new supply*
2009	13.2	6.24	2.84	16.61	80

Source:
DEFRA Overseas Trade Statistics

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to protect against the import of illegal eggs from countries which are not compliant with the European welfare of laying hens directive. [78623]

Mr Paice: We have made it clear to the Commission that those producers who have invested in new systems must not be required to compete with producers both at home and in a number of member states who have failed to comply with the directive.

While the Commission is still seeking information from some member states and considering proposals for enforcement, we are developing our own plans in the event that the Commission fails to act.

Poultry: EU Law

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on complying with the 1999 EU laying hens directive; and if she will make a statement. [81329]

Mr Paice: We expect the vast majority of UK producers will be compliant by 1 January 2012.

In addition to the industry carrying out its own audits, the Government are making their own efforts to forecast as far as possible likely compliance by the end of the year. Inspectors from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), the agency responsible for enforcing the conventional cage ban in Great Britain, are visiting all known cage producers. They are reminding producers of the need to comply with the conventional cage ban by 1 January 2012 and at the same time finding out producers' intentions as to whether they will cease production or convert to alternative systems. In addition, DEFRA commissioned ADAS to prepare a report on the progress that the UK egg industry has made towards achieving full compliance with the legislation as at 1 September 2011.

The intelligence gathered from both these exercises suggests that there were likely to be substantially fewer than 0.5 million conventional cage places still in use at the start of the final quarter of 2011. Of these remaining producers we expect many will either retire from the industry at the end of the year or have a break in production while they decide how best to continue in the industry.

The Government will be taking tough enforcement action with any UK producers found to be non-compliant after 1 January 2012.

Rivers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will prohibit the discharge of raw sewage into English watercourses. [76274]

Richard Benyon: All discharges to the river network, including discharges from sewage treatment works and associated sewer systems, are controlled by the Environment Agency's environmental permitting activities. In conjunction with the Environment Agency's monitoring programme this ensures that river water quality is protected. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) allow the controlled discharge of dilute sewage mixed with rainwater when combined sewer systems become overwhelmed during periods of heavy rainfall. Such discharges are necessary to avoid sewage backing up and spilling on to roads or overflowing into people's homes. Since privatisation some 7000 CSOs have been removed or improved with further investment planned at close to 800 more within the period 2010-15. The construction of new CSOs is only agreed by the Environment Agency in exceptional circumstances. To completely eliminate the discharges from CSOs would be prohibitively expensive and offer little or no environmental benefit.

Sustainable Growing Media Task Force

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates the Sustainable Growing Media Task Force has met. [81459]

Richard Benyon: The first meeting took place on 10 October this year, at which the chairman presented his approach to the taskforce, and taskforce members were able to shape the programme of work going forward.

Water Abstraction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the abstraction of water from chalk streams on Ministry of Defence land. [77221]

Richard Benyon: In 2009 DEFRA consulted on the abstraction provisions of the Water Act 2003 and the Environment Act 1995 with the aim of removing certain exemptions from abstraction licence control. These provisions included requiring Crown bodies to be subject to the same licensing provisions as non-Crown bodies. The Ministry of Defence and a representative from project Aquatrine, the Ministry of Defence's water and wastewater operation and maintenance public-private partnership, responded to the consultation.

We intend to end all abstraction exemptions, other than those that pose little risk to the environment. We are currently reviewing the consultation responses and the concerns raised.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the insulation industry of the transitional period between the end of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the start of the Energy Company Obligation. [81567]

Gregory Barker: We have considered how to avoid a gap if any energy companies complete their CERT requirements before the start of Green Deal and ECO. We will consult on allowing obligated companies to score any over-delivery, of qualifying measures during the CERT period as early delivery under the ECO scheme.

Carbon Emissions: Public Sector

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of carbon emissions from public sector buildings which are not part of the central government estate in the latest period for which figures are available. [81632]

Gregory Barker: The most up-to-date estimate the Department has of carbon emissions from public buildings in England is contained in a report prepared by Cameo Advisory Services Ltd for DECC in July 2011. A link to this report is:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/tackling-climate-change/saving-energy-co2/2261-camco-report-public-sector-emissions.pdf

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has taken steps to seek to ensure that agreements are signed by all participating countries at the COP 17 meeting in Durban in December to *(a)* assist the world's most vulnerable communities adapt to climate change which is unavoidable and *(b)* introduce a binding international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions in line with what is required to ensure that any average global temperature increase remains well below two degrees Celsius; and if he will make a statement. [82073]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to achieving an ambitious global deal to cut emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increases to below two degrees Celsius, and to helping countries adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change. The UK has been working closely with a broad range of partners to seek to ensure that progress is made at COP 17 in Durban towards a new legally binding agreement covering all parties. The Government are also working to agree at Durban further progress on implementing what we achieved at Cancun last year, including on the delivery of finance to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation.

Electricity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on businesses of the proposals contained in his Department's White Paper, entitled Planning our electric future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity, published in July 2011. [81945]

Charles Hendry: The impact assessment (IA) accompanying the Electricity Market Reform (EMR) White Paper provides an assessment of the effects of the EMR proposals on businesses. As noted in section 5 of the IA, for the Governments preferred policy package of feed-in tariffs with contracts for difference the benefits to business could range between £0.4 billion to £0.6 billion per year depending on the final choices made on a capacity mechanism. In terms of the impact on energy bills, over the period of assessment (2010 to 2030), medium sized businesses could see a fall in energy bills of between 1% to 2% and large energy intensive businesses could see falls of between 2% to 3% relative to the case without the EMR policies.

The EMR White Paper IA can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/policy-legislation/EMR/2180-emr-impact-assessment.pdf

In addition, the Government intend to shortly announce a package of measures to reduce the impact of government policy on electricity costs for energy intensive manufacturers whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies, and to support them in becoming more energy and carbon efficient where it would be cost effective for them to do so.

Energy: Meters

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to include in the procurement process for smart meters trials to ensure the *(a)* fitness for purpose, *(b)* coverage and *(c)* value for money of the candidate technologies; and if he will make a statement. [81630]

Charles Hendry: The purpose of the procurement processes for the data and communication services is to evaluate the technical capability and value for money of proposed solutions. For communication services this will include assessing the proposed coverage of different technologies across Great Britain.

The procurement will assess the level of technical risk presented by different solutions and will require bidders to prove that their proposals are technically sound. This may include evidence from studies and physical trials. Once the suppliers are on contract they will then be required to implement their solutions and conduct tests across all smart metering systems and industry to ensure that the end-to-end system is operationally robust before it is rolled out on a large scale.

Fuel Poverty: Suffolk

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of households were living in fuel poverty in *(a)* Babergh District and *(b)* Suffolk in (i) 1981, (ii) 1983, (iii) 1997 and (iv) 2010. [81472]

Gregory Barker: Sub-regional data are available only for 2006 and 2008 and are shown in the following table. Figures show the proportion of all households in that area that were fuel poor.

	Babergh local authority	*Percentage Suffolk*
2006	13	13
2008	16	15

Data are also available for 2003 from:

www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk

but this has not been produced on a consistent basis with that for 2006 and 2008.

Data for 2009 will be published on 24 November at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/regional/regional.aspx

Green Deal Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish his Department's consultation on the Green Deal. [79896]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* We expect to commence consultation on secondary legislation shortly.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely cost to energy companies of implementing systems to collect and distribute Green Deal payments. [81569]

Gregory Barker: We have made an estimate of £7.9 to £22.5 million, with a central estimate of £15.1 million, for the one-off cost to domestic electricity suppliers of implementing systems to collect and distribute Green Deal payments. These figures were derived from cost estimates supplied by energy companies.

We have not made an estimate for non-domestic electricity suppliers as these are more likely to process Green Deal payments on a bespoke basis rather than using fully automated billing systems.

Heating

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of infra-red heating in reducing fuel poverty. [81714]

Gregory Barker: We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of infrared heating in reducing fuel poverty.

Renewable Energy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which renewable energy technology can be deployed fastest. [82238]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Christopher Pincher) on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 40W.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost of delaying proposed cuts for feed-in tariffs until April 2012. [80320]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert), on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 594W.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on small and medium-sized businesses arising from his planned changes to the feed-in tariff scheme. [80379]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the consultation on Feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaic

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-ia-solar-pv-draft.pdf

does not estimate the specific impact on small and medium-sized businesses but it does set out the impact on the general level of employment as a result of the change to the feed-in tariffs.

It estimates that 1,000 to 10,000 gross full-time employee jobs could be supported in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under the proposals. This estimate relates to solar PV installations only and does not account for jobs created as a result of the proposed energy efficiency requirement.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 268W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, at which stage of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) application process an installation becomes eligible for FITs payments; and whether his Department has made an assessment of the average time between the installation of a project and the point at which it becomes eligible for FITs payments. [81064]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* An installation becomes eligible for feed-in tariffs (FITs) from its eligibility date. The term "eligibility date" is defined in Condition 33 of the Standard Conditions of Electricity Supply Licences, and is the latter of either *(a)* the date on which the installation is commissioned; or *(b)* the date on which a valid application for FITs has been received by either Ofgem (in the case of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations with a declared net capacity of over 50kW) or a FIT licensee (in the case of solar PV installations with a declared net capacity of up to 50kW).

Information from the Ofgem Central FITs Register shows that the average time between the commissioning of an installation and its eligibility date is 16.78 days. This is based on information for all installations registered for FITs with a commissioning date after 1 April 2010 and does not include extensions to accredited FIT installations.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the level of enterprise deaths in *(a)* the renewable sector and *(b)* the construction sector of changes to the timetable for applications for feed-in tariffs. [81450]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold relevant information on which to base any estimate of companies that will be forced to cease trading in the UK solar industry. The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV), available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The impact assessment does not estimate the specific impact of the proposed changes on the UK solar industry as a whole.

Solar Power

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many representations he has received opposing the development of solar photovoltaic sites. [80813]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* DECC receives a significant number of telephone inquiries, responses to consultation exercises and other pieces of correspondence. These will have included representations expressing concern or opposition to renewable energy developments, including solar photovoltaics. However, we do not collect data on this and could do so only at disproportionate cost. Local planning authorities may also have received representations on planning applications for individual developments, but we do not hold the details of these.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the reductions in the cost of *(a)* solar photovoltaic panel manufacturing and *(b)* solar photovoltaic panel installation since May 2010. [82247]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV) sets out estimates of PV installation costs for different sizes of installations. These estimates reflect both the costs of solar panels and costs of the installation process. They are based on a report from

Cambridge Economic Policy Associates and Parsons Brinckerhoff which was published alongside the impact assessment and is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3365-updates-to-fits-model-doc.pdf

Overall, evidence shows that there has been at least a 30% fall in PV costs between April 2010 and summer 2011, and the latest indications are that the prices have continued to fall.

Solar Power: Brighton and Hove

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives of Brighton Energy Co-operative to discuss the continuance of projects to install and operate four solar photovoltaic arrays in the Brighton and Hove area, which were planned on the basis of the current feed-in tariff rates. [79263]

Gregory Barker: My officials are working closely with communities to understand the impacts of the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV, and would be happy to meet Brighton Energy Co-operative.

I am also seeking to establish a small community contact group to ensure communities have a direct input into DECC policies as appropriate going forward.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons he was not present for the Urgent Question on feed-in tariffs on 31 October 2011. [80622]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* As I made clear in the House on 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 617, Ministers in the Department of Energy and Climate Change operate as a team. I have been leading on this issue, and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), is very happy for me to do so.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effects on the number of small and medium-sized enterprises of his planned changes to the feed-in tariff scheme for solar photovoltaic installations. [80623]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to question 80379 to the hon. Member for Gedling (Vernon Coaker).

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect *(a)* on employment rates and *(b)* on investment in the solar photovoltaic (PV) sector of his Department's proposed reductions in solar PV tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [81498]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the consultation on FITs for solar PV:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

sets out the impact on the level of support and generation as a result of the change to the feed-in tariffs. It estimates that 1,000-10,000 gross Full-time equivalent could be supported in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under the proposals. This estimate relates to solar PV installations only and does not account for jobs created as a result of the proposed energy efficiency requirement.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of reducing solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs by *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* 40 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [81499]

Gregory Barker: We have not made an assessment of the impact of reducing solar photovoltaic (PV) tariffs by set proportions. The proposed solar PV tariffs set out in the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV target a rate of return on capital of approximately 4.5-5% for well-sited installations, in line with intentions at the outset of the FITs scheme.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1—Tariffs for Solar Photovoltaic, 31 October 2011, paragraph 49, what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* organisations committed to the installation of solar photovoltaic who will not be able to meet the 12 December eligibility date. [82213]

Gregory Barker: It is difficult to ascertain with any degree of certainty the number of individuals or organisations that have committed to installing solar photovoltaic (PV) who would not be able to meet the reference date of before 12 December 2011 to continue to receive the current tariffs, pending the outcome of the consultation.

Our present estimate is that by 12 December 2011, a total of approximately 130,000 solar PV installations will be eligible for feed-in tariffs (FITs). This estimate is however uncertain and depends on the actual rate of growth between now and 12 December.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of applications of closing applications for the solar photovoltaic panels scheme before the outcome of the consultation. [82240]

Gregory Barker: We have not proposed to close the scheme. We are consulting on a reference date of 12 December 2011 for installations with an eligibility date on or after the reference date to receive the new lower tariff, pending the outcome of the consultation in April 2012. As the consultation explains, we expect that those who make the decision to go ahead with their installation will still receive a rate of return of 4.5-5% on their investment.

In the impact assessment published alongside the consultation document:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fits_comp_rev1/fits_comp_rev1.aspx

we assume that pre-12 December take-up would be 20% higher than normal. However, this estimate is uncertain and depends on actual growth between now and 12 December.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what budget his Department has allocated for exemptions to the proposed implementation date for reduced solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs. [82248]

Gregory Barker: There are no specific budget allocations for any exemptions. The Government are currently consulting on proposals to reduce the feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. The proposals are for new tariffs to come in force on 1 April 2012, and that, apart from the proposed multi-installation tariff, they should apply from that date to all new PV installations which become eligible for FITs on or after 12 December 2011.

The consultation seeks views on the tariffs and on the proposed approach to implementing them, and closes on 23 December 2011. All representations made will be considered before the policy is finalised.

Warm Front Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have been employed to deliver the Warm Front policy in each of the last five years. [81568]

Gregory Barker: Over the last five years DECC has maintained a core workforce of three-five policy officials working on Warm Front.

During this period, Carillion Energy Services (formerly Eaga) has maintained a core workforce of approximately 350 staff consistently employed on Warm Front service provision. In addition, a number of support functions across Carillion Energy Services business such as IT, procurement and HR management would have employed 200-300 staff at any one time.

A number of key services to the Warm Front scheme including installation services are provided by sub-contractors. An estimated average of between 2,500 to 3,000 personnel have been employed over the last five years to deliver these scheme service.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces: Electoral Register

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to ensure that members of the armed forces are *(a)* registered to vote and *(b)* registered for proxy and postal voting when deployed overseas under his plans for individual voter registration. [81988]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to maximising the number of members of the armed forces who are registered to vote ahead of the transition to individual electoral registration (IER).

The Ministry of Defence is working closely with the Electoral Commission and the Cabinet Office to help service personnel and their families understand their options for registering to vote and how they can vote. Extensive information campaigns are held to encourage service personnel and their families to register to vote.

Electors who are registered on the basis of service declarations before the move to IER will remain on the register and will not need to register again under IER until their service declaration expires. This will maximise the numbers registered. Postal and proxy voting will also remain available to those service voters.

In terms of ensuring members of the armed forces are registered for proxy and postal voting, the Government have already announced plans to extend 'emergency' proxy voting (the ability to submit a last-minute proxy application between the sixth day before a poll and polling day) to those who are deployed at short notice before an election.

In addition, we have published draft legislative provisions to extend the electoral timetable for UK parliamentary elections from 17 to 25 working days, and will make a corresponding change for the by-elections timetable, to take effect in time for the next scheduled general election in 2015. These provisions will have particular benefits for service personnel stationed outside the UK as they will allow more time for the dispatch and return of postal votes to overseas locations.

Electoral Register

Mr David: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consultation meetings Ministers have had to discuss the Government's White Paper on Individual Electoral Registration. [81868]

Mr Harper: Ministers from the Cabinet Office have met with the following organisations to discuss the Individual Electoral Registration White Paper. These are:

Electoral Commission

Electoral Reform Society

Liberty

NO2ID

Big Brother Watch

Experian

Kevan Collins, chief executive, London borough of Tower Hamlets

Association of Electoral Administrators.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were delivered in South West Bedfordshire constituency in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2009-10 academic years. [81494]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of Apprenticeship Programme Starts in South West Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency, in 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data).

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in South West Bedfordshire constituency, 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data)

South West Bedfordshire	Number
2009/10 (final)	440
2010/11 (provisional)	670

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 can not be compared with final figures for earlier years.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80067]

Mr Davey: Ministers' and the Permanent Secretary's meetings with external organisations are published every quarter on the Department's website which can be accessed at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

The remaining information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate expense.

Business

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what programmes his Department has that support entrepreneurship; what the objectives are of each programme; and what the planned annual expenditure is of each programme during the comprehensive spending review period. [82015]

Mr Prisk: The Department has a range of activity which supports entrepreneurship, the budgets for which are set annually to allow the flexibility to respond to priorities across the BIS agenda. The forecast expenditure for our main enterprise-related activity in 2011-12 is as follows:

	£
SME finance including:	
(1) Venture Capital Investment—Enterprise Capital Funds (ECFs) are the Department's principal instrument for providing private sector investors with access to Government co-funding for investment in small businesses. The spending review made a £200 million commitment to support ECFs.	[1]66,000,000
(2) Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG)—created to facilitate additional bank lending to viable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that lack the security or proven track record with which to secure a normal commercial loan. In 2011-12, the Department has provided banks with scope to provide £600 million of guaranteed lending. The EFG will continue until 2014-15, guaranteeing, subject to demand, up to £2 billion in additional lending.	[2]—
Business improvement including:	
(1) Business Coaching for Growth—providing high growth potential SMEs with the advice and support that will enable them to realise that potential.	10,100,000
(2) Business Link Helpline—a telephone service to help businesses who cannot find the information they need on the web, or who are not connected to the internet, to get access to the information they need to start and grow their businesses.	[2]—
(3) Mentoring—BIS is working with the private sector to develop a network of at least 40,000 experienced business mentors. This includes working with the British Bankers Association (BBA) to develop and expand the new mentoring portal, Mentorsme.co.uk, which now provides access to around 11,000 mentors. The Department has also provided a grant to Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI) for the recruitment and training of 10,000 volunteer business mentors from business representative bodies.	[2]—
Projects to help promote a more entrepreneurial culture including:	
(1) Grant given to the National Association of College and University Entrepreneurs to build a sustainable national infrastructure to develop and drive forward student enterprise societies across higher and further education institutions, expanding enterprise societies into over 90 English universities and at least 160 further education colleges by 2015.	2,300,000
(2) Supporting work to assist schools both with online resources to help develop school businesses and in accessing local enterprise champions and role models.	[2]—
(3) Grant given to Premier League Charitable Fund to develop a sustainable Premier League Enterprise Academy model, enabling Premier League football clubs to foster enterprise among young people and principally in deprived areas.	[2]—
(4) Web Exploitation—piloting a series of workshops to enhance the skills of SMEs in making greater use of the internet and associated technologies to boost productivity and growth.	[2]—
(5) National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education—to build a sustainable infrastructure to enable higher and further education institutions to better support entrepreneurship.	[2]—
Queens Awards for Enterprise	
The Queen's Awards for Enterprise reward individuals who have played a significant and outstanding role in promoting a more enterprising culture. The awards celebrate a wide range of achievement, from exemplifying effective novel business methods to outstanding leadership in promoting the acquisition of key enterprise skills.	500,000
Total	78,900,000

[1] Capital
[2] Indicates brace

Business: Loans

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England received under the Project Merlin agreement to date. [81553]

Mr Prisk: As part of the Project Merlin agreement to make available £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, including £76 billion of lending to small and medium-sized businesses, the banks agreed to make gross lending data available to the Bank of England for publication in aggregate on a quarterly basis.

As published by the Bank of England on 14 November 2011, the five 'Project Merlin' banks—Barclays, HSBC, LBG, RBS and Santander—have extended £56.1 billion worth of lending to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across the UK up to the end of Q3 in 2011.

The Bank of England does not publish figures under the Merlin agreement broken down by region or nation.

Business: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Northern Ireland are classified as *(a)* large, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* small. [81999]

Mr Prisk: Estimates of the number of large, medium and small-sized businesses in Northern Ireland at the start of 2011 are shown in the following table:

	Business size band			
	Number of small businesses (0 to 49 employees)	*Number of medium-sized businesses (50 to 249 employees)*	*Number of large businesses (250 or more employees)*	*All private sector businesses*
Number of private sector businesses in Northern Ireland	121,075	855	135	122,065

Source:
Business Population Estimates for the UK and Regions (2011 Edition), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Business: Regulation

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department are working on the Red Tape Challenge; and what estimate he has made of the required staffing level in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [79742]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The Red Tape Challenge is led by a joint Cabinet Office-BIS team, which includes five full-time BIS officials. In addition, the Departments (including BIS) that are responsible for the regulations involved in a 'theme' manage and resource their own process. No budget has yet been assigned to the programme beyond the end of this financial year.

Debts: Advisory Services

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many on-site compliance visits have been carried out by the Office of Fair Trading in relation to compliance with its Debt Management Guidance since September 2010; [80394]

(2) how many of the debt management firms cautioned by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in September 2010 are still operating and not complying with the OFT's Debt Management Guidance; [80395]

(3) how many of the firms found in September 2010 to be failing to comply with debt management guidance issued by the Office of Fair Trading are still in possession of their consumer credit licences. [80396]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has undertaken 48 onsite visits since September 2010, mostly to those applying for new consumer credit licences to cover debt management activities. The OFT is scrutinising these with particular care in light of the non-compliance identified in its compliance review.

Of the 129 businesses warned in the compliance review, 53 businesses have exited the market and no longer hold a consumer credit licence. The OFT has been or will be in contact with the remaining 76 businesses to discuss their compliance with the OFT's Debt Management Guidance and if necessary will take enforcement action.

In addition, following OFT intervention, 69 businesses have exited the debt management market since September 2010. This larger figure results from enforcement action following the warnings issued to 129 debt management firms combined with ongoing action outside of the review.

Consultants

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which external consultants are advising his Department on the Red Tape Challenge; and what the *(a)* length of each such arrangement and *(b)* cost to the public purse is in each case. [80409]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 460W.

Recruitment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for how many posts his Department has used *(a)* Gatenby Sanderson or *(b)* Odgers for recruitment purposes in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [81704]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created in June 2009 following the merger of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Since that date BIS has completed eight separate recruitment exercises using executive search companies procured from the Cabinet Office call off contract. For each recruitment exercise all executive search companies

on Lot 1 of the Cabinet Office call off contract were invited to tender and the successful company was selected following a sift of those who responded. The decision on which company to appoint would be based on a combination of their grasp of the brief, knowledge of the sector, timetable, and cost.

Since June 2009 Gatenby Sanderson have been employed by BIS once and Odgers Berndtson have been employed twice.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the European Commission to prevent *(a)* constraints on beneficial investments, including economic infrastructure and *(b)* other constraints being placed on the spending of regional development funding provided by the EU. [81110]

Mr Davey: The Structural Funds Regulations for 2007-13, Member States' National Strategic Reference Framework and Operational Programmes set out the framework for eligible investment. Within this framework, the Government believe that member states should have the flexibility to identify their own challenges, set their own objectives and align the structural funds with their own policies and programmes in a tailor-made way. In the current programme the Government are currently seeking views of the European Commission on the maximum flexibility that the current European Regional Development Fund regulations will allow to support broadband deployment.

The Government are currently considering the detail of the Commission's draft regulations for 2014-20 and its implications for the UK so cannot yet comment in respect of proposals for future programmes.

Export Credit Guarantees: Arms Trade

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make a statement on the availability of export credit guarantees for the defence manufacturing industry; and how many companies benefited from such support in each of the last three years. [81526]

Mr Davey: Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) support is available for defence exports.

The number of exporters that have obtained support from ECGD for defence exports in each of the last three full financial years was as follows:

	Number
2008-09	1
2009-10	2
2010-11	2

Government Departments: Public Consultation

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review the guidance for Government consultations. [80113]

Mr Davey: There are no plans to review the Government's "Code of Practice on Consultation" at this time.

Green Construction Board

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates the Green Construction Board has met; who attended each meeting; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda for each meeting. [79898]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The Department released a press notice (pn363) following the first meeting of the Green Construction Board on 24 October. This set out the full membership of the board. The agenda for first meeting was characterised by process issues such as working group coverage and governance. When working groups have been finalised by the board they will be published on the BIS website.

Higher Education: Foreign Students

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of higher education places which are filled by foreign students. [81854]

Mr Willetts: In the 2009/10 academic year, there were 2,493,415 postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments to full-time and part-time courses at UK higher education institutions. Of these enrolments 125,045 (5%) were European Union (EU—excluding the UK) domiciles and 280,760 (11%) were non-EU overseas domiciles. (Domicile refers to the country of a student's permanent or home address prior to entry to their course). This is the latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012. Further information on student domicile is available at this link to the HESA website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1943&Itemid=161

Non-EU students are recruited on top of, or in addition to, the places offered to EU and UK students. Non-EU students compete amongst themselves for these places and there is no cap on the fees that they can be charged, which are generally set at a level to cover the full cost of teaching.

Nuclear Power: Job Creation

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had on the potential for creating manufacturing jobs through the building of new nuclear power stations and the associated socio-economic benefits of any job creation. [81371]

Mr Prisk: Ministers and officials in this Department and the Department for Energy and Climate Change have regular conversations with the energy and nuclear industry to ensure that the delivery of nuclear new-build can happen to time and that opportunities are realised. Central to this is the Nuclear Development Forum.

New nuclear build in the UK has the potential to afford considerable opportunities for manufacturing firms for both the domestic and global market. The Government support manufacturers, where appropriate, to enable them to realise these opportunities; central to

this support are the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, the Manufacturing Advisory Service, and the work Her Majesty's Government (HMG) are undertaking with the Nuclear Industry Association.

It is also important that manufacturers have the right skills available in order to grow and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is providing match funding for the extension of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear to ensure that manufacturing skills are properly accommodated.

The Government have recently provided some funding through the Regional Growth Fund to three manufacturers to help them realise potential opportunities.

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to the nuclear power industry and associated manufacturing and construction as part of the Growth Review; and if he will make a statement. [81373]

Mr Prisk: Infrastructure development—including the UK's energy system—has a key role to play in driving growth and is being looked at within the current phase of Growth Review work. The Government's vision is to deliver a secure, low carbon and affordable energy system. Nuclear power has a part to play in fulfilling this vision as set out in the Government's National Policy Statements and is being further considered as part of the Growth Review work on energy infrastructure, led by Infrastructure UK. Announcements on infrastructure will be made as part of the overall package of Growth Review announcements on 29 November 2011.

Overseas Trade: Environment Protection

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures his Department is taking to ensure that UK Trade and Investment and the Export Credits Guarantee Department support UK companies that develop and export green technologies around the world. [81330]

Mr Prisk: In May 2011, the Government published "Britain Open for Business" which set out the UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) five-year strategy. This included a green export campaign, creation of an export pipeline of innovative green technologies and services and close working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) overseas network to promote green growth.

The green export campaign positions the UK as a leading provider of low carbon solutions in markets where there are strong, clear commercial opportunities. The campaign promotes the UK's low carbon capabilities to international buyers and investors. This includes activities for businesses, such as trade missions, trade shows and exhibitions both overseas and in the UK.

UKTI and the FCO work together using their respective overseas networks to promote green growth. This includes identifying new opportunities for UK businesses stemming from international agreements and overseas Governments' policies in carbon reduction.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department is working closely with UKTI in actively reaching out to exporters of green technologies so that they are aware of the products available to provide them with credit protection and facilitate the provision of finance.

Overseas Trade: Russia

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the ability of UK businesses to trade with Russia of levels of corruption in that country. [82131]

Mr Prisk: Russia remains an attractive target for exporters and investors but one that requires research and commitment. It is an important and complicated market with favourable cross-sector opportunities, some unique in scale. UK exports to Russia rose by 48% in the first eight months of 2011 to £2.9 billion. The Russian Government's economic modernisation and infrastructure development agenda, underpinned by the appetite of 140 million consumers for quality services and goods produces a need for international expertise and products.

HM Government recognise that there is an issue with corruption and that it damages Russia's economic development. Assistance and advice is available to help companies to understand the issues. Advice can be found on the business anti-corruption service website of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills:

http://www.business-anti-corruption.com/country-profiles/europe-central-asia/russia/

UKTI also provides support through the overseas business risk service:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/countries/europe/easterneurope/russia/overseasbusinessrisk.html

Post Offices: ICT

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that local post offices are enabled to install scanning equipment so that printed ID photographs can be supplied and scanned as a digital image for driving licences and passports. [81835]

Mr Davey: Decisions on the range of specialised equipment and the services to be made available at individual post office branches are an operational matter for the Post Office, taking account of the service provision requirements of their clients. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Photography

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effect on the revenue levels of private sector high street photographers of establishing digital photographic facilities in selected post offices; and if he will make a statement. [81362]

Mr Davey: It is not feasible to undertake a study such as that proposed. There are many operators providing photographic facilities on high streets across Britain who provide their services for a range of costs, a variety of different purposes and through a number of business models.

The recently introduced technology in 752 post offices offers customers the choice to digitally capture and transmit their image (and other data changes) as part of the application process for the 10-year driving licence. When renewal for photographic licences commenced in 2008, the size of the photographic market increased by 2.5 million units a year. Customers are able to choose whether to submit their photographic application online, at a post office, or via a paper application with an attached 'wet' photograph, which requires subsequent scanning at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on receipt. Customers continue to have the option of choosing how they apply for a 10-year driving licence, with their choice driven by personal preference, cost, and convenience.

Sir Andrew Cahn

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions Sir Andrew Cahn met *(a)* Huawei and *(b)* other Chinese companies when he was Chief Executive of UK Trade and Investment; and if he will make a statement. [81603]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows:

(a) In his role as chief executive officer (CEO) of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), from our records, Sir Andrew Cahn did not meet Huawei on a bilateral basis.

(b) In the normal course of his work, Sir Andrew Cahn could be expected to attend or host a number of events at which Chinese companies would be present. To analyse all of UKTI's records, over his five year tenure as CEO of UKTI, would involve reviewing some 850,000 interactions, to identify every Chinese company and whether Sir Andrew was present. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what *(a)* dates and *(b)* occasions (i) he, (ii) Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint and (iii) other Ministers in his Department in their official capacity have (A) met with, (B) spoken to and (C) corresponded with Sir Andrew Cahn since he ceased to hold the position of chief executive of UK Trade and Investment; what issues were discussed on each such occasion; and if he will make a statement. [81605]

Mr Davey: The Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), met Sir Andrew on 4 April 2011 and the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, met him on 25 January 2011. The Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Lord Green of Hurtspierpoint, met Sir Andrew frequently at events they both attended and spoke to him on the telephone on 26 January 2011. There is no record of the discussions and there has been no correspondence between Ministers and Sir Andrew.

Sky Lanterns

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the risks posed by sky lanterns; and whether he has any plans to regulate their use. [82018]

Mr Davey: We have received several representations on the risks posed by sky lanterns, namely, from the Women's Farming and Food Union (WFU), the National Farmers Union (NFU) and members of the public. Their main concerns are of fire damage to property and farm machinery, littering and harm to livestock. These are mainly issues for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

We believe that current consumer safety legislation, namely the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 are sufficient to remove any sky lanterns that may pose a risk to consumers including those which are of inferior quality, are poorly labelled or contain insufficient safety instructions.

Supermarkets: Ombudsman

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to establish a groceries code adjudicator. [82019]

Mr Davey: The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill has undergone pre-legislative scrutiny, and Parliament published the Government's response to the BIS Select Committee report on 15 October 2011. We now aim to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Trade Unions: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider introducing *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidance to require trade unions to include on trade union membership forms (i) details of individual membership monies being directed into political funds and (ii) an opt in or opt out option in relation to payments being made to political funds. [82137]

Mr Davey: I have no current plans to introduce further legislation or guidance to trade unions on their management of political funds. The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 allows individuals to opt out of contributing to the union political fund at any stage. Advice is available about this on the direct gov website and use of political funds is regulated and reported on publicly by the certification officer.

Training: Internet

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to achieve his target for the number of mentors available to businesses using the Mentorsme programme. [81008]

Mr Prisk: Mentorsme.co.uk now provides access to over 60 mentoring organisations and around 11,000 mentors and this number continues to grow. Our aim is to develop a network of over 40,000 business mentors but it is equally important that we ensure that the quality of mentoring provision is high.

Just last week, I announced new grant funding of £1.2 million to recruit and train 10,000 volunteer business mentors via the Small Firms Enterprise Development

Initiative (SFEDI) in the new "Get Mentoring" initiative. This is on top of the 5,000 mentors already announced by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), as part of the package of support for female entrepreneurs on 4 November. The launch of this initiative marks another important step towards growing the number of mentors and will bring the total number of business mentors available through the mentorsme to at least 26,000 by the end of September 2012.

We are working with SFEDI, trade and business representative bodies, a number of mentoring organisations, the British Bankers Association (BBA) and private business to encourage more experienced business people to become volunteer mentors.

We must be careful not to compromise on the quality of the mentors available simply in order to achieve this target more quickly. I am not going to set arbitrary targets and timescales. I do not believe that setting specific timescales is necessarily the right or most effective way of achieving our objectives. This should be demand-led, not controlled by Government.

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many mentors were signed up to the Mentorsme programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [81009]

Mr Prisk: Mentorsme now provides access to over 60 mentoring organisations and around 11,000 mentors and this number will continue to grow, including the addition of 15,000 small and medium-sized enterprises mentors for whom I announced funding for training last week.

I hope that I can rely on the hon. Member to help us in promoting the benefits of mentoring within his own constituency and encouraging more volunteer business mentors to come forward.

Unfair Dismissal: Employment Tribunals Service

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of employment tribunal applications of the change of the length of the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims from one year to two years. [81430]

Mr Davey: The change in length of the qualifying period for unfair dismissal from one year to two years is part of a set of measures which together will substantially reduce the total number of employment tribunal claims, including claims for unfair dismissal.

Taking into account the impact of these other measures, the additional reduction in claims for unfair dismissal as a result of lengthening the qualifying period is estimated to lie between 1,600 and 2,400 per annum.

A full explanation of how this estimate has been produced is contained in the forthcoming Resolving Workplace Disputes final stage impact assessment, due to be published shortly.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Capital

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the sums from dormant bank accounts to be distributed in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England by Big Society Capital. [81552]

Mr Hurd: Big Society Capital is an independent company and will make its own investment decisions based on the extent to which potential investments support its social objects, and meet its investment criteria.

In making its investments, we expect Big Society Capital to give due regard to geographical spread, and to the fact that capital received through the dormant accounts scheme will be from the English portion. It would not, however, be appropriate or effective for Big Society Capital to allocate specific sums of money for investment on the basis of geography over quality and social impact.

Business: Middlesbrough

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the number of businesses that have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since May 2010. [81986]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the estimate of the number of businesses that have (a) opened and (b) closed in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since May 2010. [81986]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births and deaths are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, the latest statistics relate to the calendar year 2009; the results for 2010 will be released on 6th December 2011.

Big Society

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether his Department has issued guidance on facilitating the involvement of people who are unable or unwilling to engage in normal social and civic life in the Big Society; [82035]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the role of the Big Society in combating social exclusion. [82036]

Mr Hurd: No explicit assessment or guidance on the Big Society and disadvantaged or unengaged groups has been made or issued by the Cabinet Office to date.

However, the Government recognise that supporting the most disadvantaged is a key part of the Big Society approach. This focuses on enabling all groups in society to be able to play their part and thrive, through putting more power back into people's hands by opening up public services, promoting social action and empowering local communities.

These priorities are reflected in the Office for Civil Society's programmes, including, for example: the Community First and Community Organiser programmes which focus on areas of high deprivation and low social capital, National Citizen Service, Big Society Capital and the Big Society and Social Justice Project.

Social Exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on tackling social exclusion in each year of the last five years. [82038]

Mr Hurd: For each year of the operation of the Social Exclusion Task Force in Cabinet Office, its budget was published as part of the supply estimates with expenditure detailed in the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-annual-reports-and-accounts

Big Society Capital

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the amount of funding from Big Society Capital that will go to projects that combat social exclusion. [82037]

Mr Hurd: The purpose of the Big Society Bank is to support the development of a social investment market that will increase the opportunities of charities, social enterprises and community organisations to access finance. Many of these organisations do valuable work combating social exclusion by, for example, providing training and employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups. Big Society Capital will invest in intermediaries that provide financial services and support to charities, social enterprises and other civil society organisations. It is therefore likely that a considerable proportion of Big Society Capital's investments will ultimately help to combat social exclusion.

Big Society Capital is an independent company which will make its own investment decisions based on the extent to which potential investments support its social objects and meet its investment criteria.

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many EU nationals whose original country of birth or origin was not an EU member state have entered the UK in each of the last five years. [82113]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many EU nationals whose original country of birth or origin was not an EU member state have entered the UK in each of the last five years (82113).

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of long-term international migration, primarily based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. The latest figures available are for 2009 and these are shown in the table below. Final estimates for 2010 are due for publication on 24 November 2011.

Long-term immigration to the UK of people who are EU citizens but who were not born in the EU, 2005-09

	Estimate	*SE%*[1]
2005	9,000	30
2006	6,000	34
2007	10,000	39
2008	12,000	30
2009	10,000	33

[1] SE% = Standard error percentage

Source:
International Passenger Survey (IPS), ONS

Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error percentage greater than 25% is not considered to be reliable for practical purposes. Figures for combined years may provide more reliable estimates. In this case, the estimated number of EU citizens who were not born in the EU, coming to the UK in 2005 and 2006 was 16,000 (22 SE%), and from 2007 to 2009 was 32,000 (20 SE%).

Social Exclusion Task Force

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the closure of the Social Exclusion Task Force on the Government's ability to tackle social exclusion. [81933]

Mr Hurd: No formal assessment of the impact of the closure of the Social Exclusion Task Force has been made.

However fairness is central to this Government's agenda and the important work initiated by the Social Exclusion Task Force is being taken forward across Government Departments.

The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith) and composed of Ministers from across relevant Government Departments, is focused on co-ordinating policy on poverty, equality and social justice.

Furthermore, this year we have published a cross-government social mobility strategy and announced the new Troubled Families Unit in the Department for Communities and Local Government to better address the needs of the 120,000 most disadvantaged families.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget was of the Social Exclusion Task Force in each year of its operation; and how many staff it employed in each year. [82083]

Mr Hurd: For each year of the operation of the Social Exclusion Task Force in Cabinet Office (October 2006 to September 2010), its budget was published as part of the supply estimates.

The following table shows staff employed in the Social Exclusion Task Force over the above period. At September 2010 21 staff remained, falling to zero over the following months.

Social Exclusion Taskforce headcount figures

	Headcount	*FTE*
2006-07	18.00	17.21
2007-08	23.00	22.61
2008-09	26.00	25.51
2009-10	26.00	25.86
2010-11	24.00	23.50
2011-12	0.00	0.00

HEALTH

Winter Pressures: NHS

7. **Sajid Javid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that the NHS is prepared for winter pressures. [81801]

Anne Milton: The national health service and social care systems are well prepared for winter. Our 'winterwatch' summary was first published on 17 November. It showed higher flu vaccination uptake, and the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), announced additional Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) capacity, which will be in place by December. There is always more pressure on the national health service during winter. This year will be no different, but the preparations are in place.

Hospital Closures

20. **Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations his Department has received on local hospital service closures. [81815]

Mr Simon Burns: The reconfiguration of local NHS services is a matter for the local national health service. We expect there to be a rigorous local assessment of any proposals to close hospital services against the four criteria announced last May by the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley).

Older People

21. **Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of resources provided for the care of older people. [81816]

Paul Burstow: The Government have committed an additional £7.2 billion to support social care over four years up to 2015. This is on top of £6.8 billion of existing departmental grant funding.

Taken together these funds along with a rigorous approach to quality and productivity improvement provide local councils with sufficient resources to protect access to care for older people.

Private Finance Initiative Payments

22. **Claire Perry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to assist hospitals with the cost of PFI payments. [81817]

Mr Lansley: A Treasury review identified savings opportunities of up to 5% on annual payments in national health service private finance initiative (PFI) schemes. The lessons learned from the PFI savings pilot will be applied to all schemes in the PFI pipeline. The last Government left a £50 billion post-dated cheque to pay for their hospital building programme.

Much of it was unaffordable and poor value for money. That was the Labour legacy. We are dealing with it, including the 22 NHS trusts who identified that this was a constraint on future sustainability; and a smaller number for whom their PFI hospital is not affordable.

Carers' Breaks

23. **Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he allocated to *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Trafford primary care trust for carers' breaks in 2011-12. [81819]

Paul Burstow: The Government committed an additional £400 million of national health service funding up to 2015 to support more carers to take a break from their caring responsibilities.

This funding has been allocated to primary care trusts through their baselines. It is for local commissioners working with local councils and carers organisations to agree investment priorities to meet the needs of carers.

Monitor: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of Monitor from 2013. [81808]

Mr Simon Burns: The operating cost of Monitor during the year 2013-14 has not yet been agreed.

The Department has published in the impact assessment of 8 September that the estimated cost of Monitor, once it has taken on its extra functions in 2015-16, would be £82 million.

Age UK: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated to Age UK in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [81705]

Paul Burstow: The Department has allocated the following funding to Age UK:

	£
2010-11	833,370
2011-12	703,435

It should be noted that funding for 2011-12 represents the latest allocations and additional funding could be allocated in the remaining months of the financial year.

Age UK has received funding from the Department for the role it undertakes as a departmental strategic partner and as a National Agent for the Opportunities for Volunteering scheme. Age UK is also funded to deliver a regional development support role for some local involvement networks. It has also received funding under the Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development scheme and the reaching out to Carers Innovation Fund.

Asthma: Finance

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has made available for tackling asthma in each of the last five years. [82053]

Paul Burstow: Funding for national health service services is devolved to primary care trusts through the resource allocation process and is not ring fenced. We have estimates of the cost of asthma services from programme budgeting data for 2006-07 to 2009-10: information was not disaggregated to the level of asthma in earlier years, and is not yet available for 2010-11.

The estimates given include treatment and prescription costs, but not prevention or general practitioner costs, and are as follows:

	£ billion
2006-07	0.85
2007-08	0.97
2008-09	1.04
2009-10	1.08

Blood: Donors

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on blood: donors, what (1) new information and analysis has become available since the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs formulated its initial recommendations; [81636]

(2) evidence the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) is considering in addition to the evidence from Imperial college; and which research groups have provided evidence to ACDP. [81637]

Anne Milton: References to all the evidence from various research groups available to the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs and to the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens are listed in this publicly available paper at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_130152.pdf

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on blood: donors, (1) when the Advisory Committee on Blood, Tissues and Organs will start considering new information and analysis on fresh frozen plasma in 2012; and when he expects its conclusions to be available; [81638]

(2) whether there is a timetable for when the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs must decide whether its original recommendations should be reviewed. [81640]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will provide advice after the next meeting on 17 January 2012. A summary of the meeting will be published on the Committee's website shortly thereafter.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on blood: donors, whether the Government plans to publish the impact assessment on the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs 2009 recommendations in advance of any new conclusion being reached by the Committee. [81639]

Anne Milton: Should any advice be received from the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs an impact assessment will be prepared and presented to Ministers for consideration with that advice. The impact assessment will be published on the Department's website when that consideration is complete.

Brain Cancer

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department provided to each research study it funded on site-specific brain tumours in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [81273]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Invention for Innovation Programme is funding a project on intraoperative multispectral imaging of brain tumours. Spend on this project was £107,420 in 2009-10 and £107,420 in 2010-11.

NIHR biomedical research centre expenditure on research infrastructure for brain tumour research was £148,218 in 2009-10 and £567,838 in 2010-11.

The NIHR is also currently funding a £937,149 clinician scientist award on magnetic resonance (MR) imaging to characterise invasive phenotypes in cerebral gliomas, and a £130,833 healthcare scientist award,

'Towards improved outcomes for teenagers and young adults with cancer through the development and evaluation of novel MR methods for non-invasive diagnosis and characterisation of brain tumours'.

The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting 17 trials and other well-designed studies in cancers of the brain and nervous system that are in set-up or recruiting patients. Details can be found on the UK CRN portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Cancer: Clinical Trials

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of *(a)* pancreatic and *(b)* all cancer patients are able to access clinical trials during their treatment; [81116]

(2) what steps he has taken to increase the access to clinical trials for pancreatic cancer patients. [81215]

Paul Burstow: In 2010-11, the equivalent of 19.8% of new incident cancer cases were recruited into studies hosted by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Cancer Research Network (NCRN), representing a fivefold increase in recruitment in the decade since the network was established.

In 2010-11, a total of 13 pancreatic cancer studies hosted by the NCRN were open to recruitment, and 687 patients were recruited to them. In addition, the NIHR funds 15 Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres in partnership with Cancer Research UK. Since 2007, these centres have supported 23 pancreatic cancer studies.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Upper Gastrointestinal Clinical Studies Group is dedicated to developing a portfolio of research studies in this area and has a Pancreatic Cancer Subgroup. This subgroup has developed a number of internationally-run trials.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting period is to see a chronic fatigue specialist in *(a)* East Lancashire and *(b)* nationally. [81881]

Paul Burstow: Information on waiting times to see a chronic fatigue/myalgic encephalomyelitis specialist is not collected centrally.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chronic fatigue specialists there are based in East Lancashire. [81882]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* health, *(b)* social and *(c)* financial benefits of automatic enrolment of people with diabetes on a scheme such as the Dose Adjustment for Normal Eating diabetes management scheme for adults with diabetes. [R] [81962]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not made a formal assessment of the benefits of automatic enrolment of people with diabetes on a scheme such as the Dose Adjustment for Normal Eating (DAFNE) diabetes management scheme for adults with diabetes.

However, the benefits to patients and cost-effectiveness of the DAFNE scheme have been recognised through its Inclusion in the NHS Evidence Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention database. The database consists of real examples of how health and social care staff are improving quality and productivity across the National Health Service and social care.

Provision of structured education for people with diabetes is in the Diabetes Quality Standard. It is for local NHS organisations to deliver comprehensive high-quality and safe diabetes services, appropriate to the needs of their populations.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that people with diabetes have adequate access to health care professionals to assist them with day-to-day management of their condition. [R] [81973]

Paul Burstow: Local health care organisations are in the best position to determine the work force needed to deliver safe and high-quality patient care for their local populations. We expect decisions on the commissioning and delivery of local services to be informed by clinical involvement and leadership.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children, *(b)* adolescents, *(c)* young adults and *(d)* other adults were diagnosed with diabetes in each of the last five years. [R] [82233]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect this information. Using data from the National Diabetes Audit the following table gives an indication of the total registrations, grouped by age bands, over the past five years:

	Registrations				
Age band	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
0-15 years	12,585	14,500	15,136	16,503	17,796
16-24 years	11,679	17,856	20,007	22,977	26,063
25 years +	631,689	1,189,445	1,388,432	1,618,929	1,886,126

Notes:
1. The NDA does not have 100%, participation or coverage so the figures should be treated with caution. Growth in numbers of registrations in NDA needs to be assessed in the context of the growth in coverage for the audit.
2. Quality Outcomes Framework data is an aggregate return so does not contain the detail required to respond to this question.

Source:
National Diabetes Audit (NDA)

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training he plans to provide to healthcare professionals to ensure that they offer a personalised programme of treatment for people with diabetes. [R] [81975]

Paul Burstow: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies for the professions concerned. Through their role as the custodians of standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care is delivered by health professionals and that health care professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

Diabetes: Young People

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what nationwide arrangements his Department has put in place to support the provision of transitional care for adolescents and young adults with diabetes moving between paediatric and adult healthcare; [R] [81957]

(2) what assessment he has made of the difficulties faced by young people and adolescents with diabetes when moving from children's medical care services to adult medical care service; [R] [81963]

(3) what mechanism his Department has put in place to enable paediatric and adult health services to work together and share information about young people with diabetes to ensure an effective transition between paediatric and adult health services; [R] [81966]

(4) what support services his Department has put in place to enable paediatric and adult diabetes health services to engage with a patient with diabetes and their family from an early stage to assist with *(a)* the transition between the different health providers and *(b)* establishing good diabetes management behaviours; [R] [81967]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of each method and model for transitional care of young people and adolescents with diabetes; and whether his

Department considers any one method or model to be more appropriate and effective; [R] [81968]

(6) what steps he has taken to ensure that all children and young people with diabetes have access to *(a)* a transitional care clinic and *(b)* a key worker to co-ordinate their treatment and transition between paediatric and adult care services; [R] [81969]

(7) how many specialised clinics there are providing transitional care for young people and adolescents with diabetes; [R] [81971]

(8) what steps he is taking to provide a comprehensive nationwide network of transitional care clinics for young people and adolescents with diabetes; [R] [81972]

(9) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* financial and *(b)* social effects of providing full transitional care to young people and adolescents with diabetes. [R] [81977]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not centrally collect information about specialised clinics providing transitional care for young people and adolescents with diabetes.

However, we recognise the importance of effective transition between children's and adults' services. It is for local health service organisations to commission a comprehensive service for all people with diabetes, including adolescents and adults and those moving through transition. This is why, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, Clinical Commissioning Groups, working in conjunction with Health and Wellbeing Boards, will be required to take account of their population's needs and commission and provide services accordingly.

The National Service Framework for Diabetes, published in 2001, has a specific standard on the smooth transition of care from paediatric diabetes services to adult diabetes services, whether hospital or community-based, either directly or via a young people's clinic.

There is also NHS Diabetes commissioning guidance for diabetes in children and young people, which states that transition services for young people:

> should be run by both adult and paediatric consultant diabetologists; and
>
> the care plan must be jointly reviewed and agreed with the patient (and carer, if appropriate)

NHS Diabetes has also initiated the national Children and Young People network, to address unwarranted variation in services for this group, and to improve the care and treatment they receive. The national network constitutes 12 clinical champions roughly representing the strategic health authority regions across England, led, funded and coordinated by NHS Diabetes. A new piece of work is currently being scoped for introduction across the Network, which will look at supporting the transition from children to adult services, and at providing more individual care planning and supported self-care.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS arising from emergency and urgent medical treatment of young people and adolescents with diabetes who experience difficulty managing their condition; and if he will assess what the effect of provision of comprehensive transitional care services will be on the level of such costs. [R] [81959]

Paul Burstow: We do not collect this information centrally.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what programmes equivalent to the Dose Adjustment for Normal Eating diabetes management scheme for adults with diabetes his Department has put into place to provide peer-led support and educational services for young adults and adolescents with diabetes; [R] [81961]

(2) what *(a)* educational, *(b)* peer assistance and *(c)* other services his Department makes available to young people and adolescents to assist them with creating a personal diabetes management routine. [R] [81964]

Paul Burstow: Local national health service organisations are responsible for providing comprehensive, high-quality and safe diabetes services appropriate to their local populations, Including diabetes management schemes in place to provide peer-led support and educational services for young adults and adolescents with diabetes.

We are aware that such schemes, for example 'KICk-OFF', 'Cascade' and 'Getting Sorted', are being piloted and set up around the country by local national health service and other organisations. We look forward to seeing the evaluation and results of these schemes.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to provide young people and adolescents with diabetes with information about their condition and how to manage it; and what *(a)* online guides, *(b)* telephone services, *(c)* apps and *(d)* other educational services his Department has developed in this area; [R] [81965]

(2) if he will make it his policy to support the establishment of educational services for young people and adolescents with diabetes which are staffed by other young people with the condition; and what consideration he has given to the form such support could take; [R] [81976]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of establishing good diabetes management behaviours during childhood and adolescence on *(a)* the long-term health of children and adolescents and *(b)* costs incurred by the NHS in providing treatment of diabetes and diabetes-related issues. [R] [81978]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Operating Framework 2011-12 specifically states that primary care trusts should be commissioning the relevant structured education to support all people with diabetes.

The best practice tariff being introduced soon for paediatric diabetes also includes a requirement for 24-hour support and advice to be available to patients and their families. Local national health service organisations are responsible for providing comprehensive, high-quality and safe diabetes services appropriate to their local populations, including providing information and education to people with diabetes about their condition and how to manage it.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in children, young people and adults recommends that children and young people are offered a structured programme of education when they are newly diagnosed, and ongoing opportunities to access information, to help them manage their condition.

Charities such as Diabetes UK and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation also provide information resources in different formats for people with diabetes.

We also recognise the difficulties that some children and adolescents with diabetes have in accessing the support they need to manage their condition at school. The Department for Children, Schools and Families, in close liaison with the Department, issued guidance on "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Setting" in November 2007. This guidance explains the roles and responsibilities of employers, parents and carers, governing bodies, head teachers, teachers and other staff and of local health services.

The information is not collected centrally in a way that would allow assessments to be made of the effects of establishing good diabetes management behaviours during childhood.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to co-ordinate the collection of information and medical history from young people and adolescents with diabetes to ensure that *(a)* the medical professionals treating them have access to all relevant information, *(b)* patients do not have to explain the details of their condition on each occasion and *(c)* duplication of data and appointments services is eliminated. [R] [81970]

Paul Burstow: In October 2010, we published a consultation document 'Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution' setting out our plans to transform the way information is collected, controlled, accessed, analysed and used across the NHS and adult social care.

The consultation closed earlier this year and we have published a summary of the consultation responses. We are using these, together with the outcome from the independent NHS Future Forum, to develop an Information Strategy—which we plan to publish in the winter.

The strategy is looking at how information can be better used by and shared between health and care professionals to help ensure people experience safe, seamless and integrated care. This includes looking at how information (such as medical history) about an individual can be captured once at the point of care and then used many times across different care settings. This will help to create new opportunities for improved effectiveness, safety and a higher quality of care experienced by those using services, particularly for people who are regular users of services, for example people with diabetes.

The NHS Future Forum has been undertaking further engagement on a number of key areas, including looking at how information can be made available to improve health, care and well-being. A letter containing some interim advice was published on 17 November 2011 and recognised that data about a patient or service user should—with the right safeguards—be shared between all the organisations involved in caring for that person. We agree—and this initial feedback, together with the more detailed report which we expect to be published in December, will help to inform the strategy.

The information revolution consultation and the summary of responses are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120080

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of missed appointments booked on behalf of young people and adolescents with diabetes; and what steps he is taking to reduce the numbers of such missed appointments. [R] [81974]

Paul Burstow: We do not collect this information centrally.

Diamorphine

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding he plans to allocate to explore the wider prescribing of diamorphine up to March 2015; to whom; which activities will be funded; and which body will be responsible for allocating the funding; [81490]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of patients who will receive treatment as a result of the wider prescribing of diamorphine up to March 2015. [81491]

Anne Milton: £2 million per annum has been identified for centrally-funded pilots of supervised inject able opioid treatment for the small numbers who may benefit. The procurement process for these pilots is still subject to ministerial and HM Treasury approval. Pending such approval the other information requested is not available.

GP Patient Lists

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to GPs on removing patients from their lists. [81279]

Mr Simon Burns: The procedures which a general practitioner (GP) practice must follow when removing a patient from its list are set out in the regulations covering the contractual arrangements between the GP practice and its primary care trust (PCT).

Under the terms of its contract, a GP practice may remove any patient from its list of national health service patients if it believes that it has reasonable grounds for doing so. Patients should be given a warning before action is taken for removal and specific reasons as to why the removal has occurred.

If anyone who has been removed from a practice list has difficulty in finding another practice, the PCT has a legal responsibility to find them a practice with which to register.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for assigning patients who have been removed from their GP list to other GP lists after the abolition of primary care trusts as part of his proposed NHS reforms. [81365]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, this responsibility will lie with the NHS Commissioning Board.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what complaint handling procedures there will be for patients who have been removed from a GP list following the abolition of primary care trusts; and

whether this process will include *(a)* the practice manager of the relevant GP practice, *(b)* the Clinical Commissioning Group lead, *(c)* the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman and *(d)* any other body; and if he will make a statement. [81366]

Mr Simon Burns: We envisage that the current arrangements for handling national health service complaints will continue following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill.

The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 allow for a complaint about NHS services to be made to either the commissioner or the provider of those NHS services.

Each commissioner or provider of NHS services must designate a complaints manager to be responsible for managing the procedures for handling and considering complaints.

If a complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of their complaint at local level, they will continue to be able to take their complaint to the health service ombudsman.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the performance was of *(a)* Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, *(b)* East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, *(c)* Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, *(d)* Medway NHS Foundation Trust against the 18 week waiting time target in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and what the performance was in England in each such year. [81862]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is shown in the following tables. The data show the performance of each of the four trusts and England in the specified years against the 18-week waiting time standards:

Percentage of admitted (adjusted) referral to treatment (RTT) pathways within 18-weeks (waiting time standard of 90%)

		England	*Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust*	*East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust*	*Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust*	*Medway NHS Foundation Trust*
	April 2008	86.7	71.8	84.7	57.4	92.3
	May 2008	88.6	80.2	87.2	62.3	91.8
	June 2008	88.9	78.9	87.2	68.5	95.1
	July 2008	89.9	80.8	87.5	68.1	96.0
	August2008	90.3	87.6	87.0	68.8	96.8
2008-09	September 2008	90.2	96.2	84.4	74.3	95.8
	October 2008	90.6	93.9	83.5	81.0	95.4
	November 2008	90.6	91	81.9	85.2	93.6
	December 2008	92.8	94.3	86.1	90.6	96.5
	January 2009	92.9	95.4	90.2	90.6	94.2
	February 2009	92.8	95.0	90.2	90.2	93.3
	March 2009	93.0	94.2	91.3	90.6	94.4
	April 2009	93.3	92.0	90.1	90.1	93.1
	May 2009	93.7	91.7	90.8	92.3	94.8
	June 2009	93.6	91.4	90.4	90.3	94.0
	July 2009	93.7	91.8	91.9	90.9	95.3
	August 2009	93.6	90.9	91.5	90.1	94.3
2009-10	September 2009	93.3	91.0	91.4	92.3	95.9
	October 2009	93.0	91.2	92.3	93.3	96.1
	November 2009	92.8	91.1	92.6	92.4	96.3
	December 2009	93.3	92.8	92.5	92.2	95.9
	January 2010	92.6	91.5	91.5	92.5	95.0
	February 2010	91.9	91.1	84.3	93.2	93.7
	March 2010	92.0	93.5	81.8	95.0	93.3
2010-11	April 2010	92.1	94.3	86.0	93.3	92.1
	May 2010	92.9	95.3	86.9	93.6	91.6
	June 2010	93.1	96.0	89.0	94.3	90.8
	July 2010	93.3	95.8	91.8	94.4	90.6
	August 2010	93.2	93.7	92.2	93.8	91.8
	September 2010	92.5	92.8	91.5	93.7	90.5
	October 2010	92.4	91.9	92.0	93.0	90.6
	November 2010	92.0	92.4	91.1	93.9	90.3
	December 2010	92.2	90.1	90.6	94.2	92.9

		Percentage of admitted (adjusted) referral to treatment (RTT) pathways within 18-weeks (waiting time standard of 90%)				
		England	*Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust*	*East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust*	*Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust*	*Medway NHS Foundation Trust*
	January 2011	90.7	87.8	89.4	92.9	90.1
	February 2011	89.8	89.4	86.5	92.9	90.2
	March 2011	89.6	94.5	86.1	92.7	91.5

		Percentage of non-admitted RTT pathways within 18-weeks (waiting time standard of 95%)				
	Month	*England*	*Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust*	*East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust*	*Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust*	*Medway NHS Foundation Trust*
	April 2008	92.1	90.3	96.9	80.0	94.7
	May 2008	92.8	91.2	96.2	86.4	97.1
	June 2008	93.7	95.7	96,4	90.0	98.0
	July 2008	94.6	93.6	96.6	91.1	99.7
	Auqust2008	95.0	95.2	97.0	91.4	97.6
2008-09	September 2008	95.4	95.6	96.5	94.2	96.7
	October 2008	94.8	96.2	97.5	96.7	96.4
	November 2008	96.2	96.5	97.0	95.0	96.3
	December 2008	96.8	96.5	97.2	95.4	97.9
	January 2009	97.1	97.4	98.6	95.6	98.1
	February 2009	97.1	97.4	98.5	95.1	97.3
	March 2009	97.2	97.3	97.9	95.2	97.3
	April 2009	97.3	97.1	98.3	95.1	97.7
	May 2009	97.6	97.2	96.5	95.8	97.5
	June 2009	97.6	97.2	97.0	95.4	98.6
	July 2009	97.6	97.6	99.5	95.2	97.8
	August 2009	97.6	97.8	99.3	95.0	97.4
2009-10	September 2009	97.5	97.7	99.2	95.2	97.8
	October 2009	97.6	97.9	99.1	96.0	98.5
	November 2009	97.7	97.6	97.6	96.4	98.7
	December 2009	97.8	98.2	98.9	95.9	99.0
	January 2010	97.7	97.6	95.3	96.2	98.3
	February 2010	97.7	97.4	99.0	96.1	98.4
	March 2010	97.8	97.9	99.2	96.1	98.9
2010-11	April 2010	97.9	98.0	99.2	96.1	98.7
	May 2010	98.1	98.1	98.0	96.0	99.4
	June 2010	98.1	98.5	97.7	95.9	98.8
	July 2010	98.0	98.4	97.5	96.2	99.2
	August 2010	98.0	98.5	97.9	95.8	98.7
	September 2010	97.8	98.2	97.2	95.8	98.7
	October 2010	97.6	98.7	97.4	96.5	98.8
	November 2010	97.5	98.3	96.2	96.0	98.3
	December 2010	97.5	98.4	97.1	97.1	98.3
	January 2011	97.2	97.7	95.6	95.9	98.2
	February 2011	97.1	97.5	95.3	95.7	98.3
	March 2011	97.2	98.0	96.2	97.7	98.6

Notes:
1. Admitted RTT pathways are waiting times for patients whose treatment started during the month and involved admission to hospital.
2. Non-admitted RTT pathways are waiting times for patients whose treatment started during the month and did not involve admission to hospital.
3. Adjustments are made to admitted RTT pathways for clock pauses, where a patient had declined reasonable offers of admission and chosen to wait longer.

Infant Foods: Marketing

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with baby milk manufacturers on the advertising and marketing of their products. [81899]

Anne Milton: There have been no recent discussions between the Department and infant formula (baby milk) manufacturers on the advertising and marketing of their products.

Medicine: Research

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* Minister for Science and Universities on the effects of the Government's policies on (i) medical research and (ii) the future of the Clinical Excellence Awards Scheme. [81145]

Mr Simon Burns: In line with the practice of previous Administrations, details of ministerial discussions on ongoing policy issues are not disclosed, as this could undermine effective Government decision-making. Any issues that require the consideration of Cabinet or reporting to Parliament will be dealt with according to the proper protocol.

In 2011, the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration led a review on the Clinical Excellence award scheme. Their report is currently being considered by Ministers.

NHS: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of active members of the NHS Pension Scheme earning less than £15,000 per year *(a)* are female and *(b)* work part-time. [81572]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimates based on data extracted from the Electronic Staff Record in March 2011 for Hospital and Community Health services staff show that the proportion of active members of the NHS Pension Scheme earning less than £15,000 per year that *(a)* are female is 90% and *(b)* work part-time is 88%.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the NHS pension scheme of each NHS profession had a pension fund worth more than £1 million at retirement in each financial year since 1997. [82228]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Standards

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Information Commissioner's recent ruling in respect of his Department's strategic risk register, if he will arrange for the register to be published. [81581]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is considering its response to the Information Commissioner's decision of 2 November to require its release, and expects to respond by early December.

Nutrition

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 746W, on nutrition, whether any impact assessments were carried out in cases where his Department has developed Public Health Responsibility Deal pledges on a basis of limited evidence; and if he will make a statement. [81560]

Anne Milton: Impact assessments have not been carried out on the Public Health Responsibility Deal's pledges. The pledges represent a series of voluntary commitments, which public, private and third sector organisations are able to sign up to if they wish.

Obesity

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England aged *(a)* under five, *(b)* between five and 16 and *(c)* over 16 years old, were classified as obese in each financial year since 1997. [82226]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of obese children in England is available in the 'Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables" Child trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for children aged two to 15 in England for the years 1995 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

Information on the percentage of obese adults aged 16 and over in England is available in the 'Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables', Adult trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for adults in England for the years 1993 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

Further information on the prevalence of obesity in children is available through the National Child Measurement Programme. Information is available for children in reception (four to five years) and year 6 (10 to 11 years) for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Information showing the prevalence of obesity in these two school years in England is available for each year from the following links:

Table 1 in the excel file accompanying 'National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2007/08 school year, headline results' is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-school-year-2007-08

Table 1 in the excel file accompanying 'National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2006/07 school year, headline results' is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-2006-07-school-year

All these documents have already been placed in the Library.

Table 1 in the excel file accompanying 'National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2009/10 school year' is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2009-10-school-year

Table 1 in the excel file accompanying 'National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2008/09 school year' is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2008-09-school-year

Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

Organs: Donors

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 628W, on organ donors, what the evidential basis is for the conclusion that his Department is on track to meet the 50 per cent. improvement in deceased donor rates by 2013 anticipated by the Organ Donation Taskforce; and if he will make a statement. [81139]

Anne Milton: The Organ Donation Taskforce anticipated that we would meet a 50% improvement in deceased donor rates by 2013. Latest available figures show that deceased donor numbers have increased by 31.4% against the 2007-08 baseline. We are on target to achieve a 35% increase by March 2012 and a 50% increase by the following year as it is expected that there will be even greater increments in the last year.

Since the publication of the report by the Organ Donation Taskforce in 2008, a great deal of work has taken place to strengthen the donation programme and increase the number of organs available for patients. There are now over 200 highly trained specialist nurses for organ donation based in hospitals across the country and NHS Blood and Transplant is continuing to train and recruit more staff into this vital role. Clinical leads for organ donation have been appointed in every acute hospital working closely with hospital organ donation committees to increase donation rates.

The appointment of Chris Rudge to chair a Transitional Steering Group pending the introduction of the new Commissioning Board will help maintain the momentum of improvement focusing action on increasing consent rates, encouraging deceased donation in all appropriate circumstances and increasing donation from emergency medicine.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the NHS has made towards its target of a 50 per cent. increase in organ donation by 2013. [81439]

Anne Milton: Latest available figures show that deceased donor numbers have increased by 31.4% against the 2007-08 baseline. We are on target to achieve a 35% increase by March 2012 and a 50% increase by the following year.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donation registrations there have been in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [81599]

Anne Milton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Additions to the organ donor register (ODR), April 2008 to March 2011, by year

Added in year	*ODR*	*Percentage increase*
2008-09	1,073,000	7.4
2009-10	1,191,000	7.6
2010-11	930,000	5.5
Total on ODR at 31 March 2011	17,765,000	—

Notes:
1. The reason for the reduced rate of increase for 2010-11 when compared to the previous years is because registration to the ODR was put on hold while NHS Blood and Transplant resolved a registration system issue.
2. The number of people signed up to the ODR as at 15 November 2011 was 18,412,041.

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant.

Palliative Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days the NHS provided for palliative care in the last 12 months. [81592]

Paul Burstow: The number of finished consultant episode bed days for the main specialty 'palliative medicine' in 2010-11 as reported in the Hospital Episode Statistics was 115,487[1]. However, these data reflect the specialty of the consultant responsible for the care of the patient not the range of treatment that the patient received. It is not possible to extrapolate from these data to say how many people receive palliative care in national health service hospitals: for example, a patient under the care of a cardiologist might also receive palliative care but the data would record the cardiology specialism.

The final report of the independent Palliative Care Funding Review (PCFR) recognised that there is a paucity of data available on palliative care. The Department is working with the National End of Life Care Intelligence Network and through the work to take forward the PCFR to address this issue.

[1] *source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics and The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Pancreatic Cancer

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of implementing the actions contained in his Department's document, "Improving Outcomes: a Strategy for Cancer" on pancreatic cancer survival rates. [81438]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government's document, "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", was published on 12 January, it sets out a range of actions to improve cancer outcomes, including diagnosing cancer earlier, helping people to live healthier lives to reduce preventable cancers, screening more people, introducing new screening programmes and ensuring that all patients have access to the best possible treatment, care and support.

The strategy sets out our ambition to bring England's cancer survival rates in line with the European average by 2014-15. Research has shown that to match the European average we need to save 5,000 additional lives per year. This research also shows that if England's survival rates were as good as the best in Europe we would save 10,000 additional lives per year. This figure has also been broken down by tumour site, and we estimate that we would save 75 additional lives each year if we matched the best European survival rate for pancreatic cancer.

The strategy's first annual report will be published this winter.

Schools: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how he plans to assess the health benefits children gain from participating in the School Games programme; and if he will make a statement; [81949]

(2) what assessment he has made of the additional health benefits children are likely to derive from being involved in competitive sport as part of the School Games programme; and if he will make a statement. [81950]

Anne Milton: The School Games will have a focus on encouraging participation in sport across the spectrum of abilities and experience and those who have not previously engaged in competitive sport. Currently over a third of schools in England have signed up for the School Games. Through their participation, thousands of children and young people will be working towards the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines of 60 minutes of moderate intensity activity a day. The health benefits will flow from the levels of participation, particularly those who are least active.

We are also funding the development of Change4Life school sport hubs in order to inspire the least active children and young people into participating in the School Games. Initial findings from the recent establishment of 3,000 Change4Life School Sports Clubs in secondary schools are encouraging. We will shortly publish the independent evaluation of the first year of the programme.

Competitive sport is a way for young people to develop their talents and increase their self-confidence, resilience and self-esteem. It can also help develop important life skills such as teamwork and dedication. The benefits of competitive sport and regular activity can also be seen in improved concentration and academic performance, enhanced cardio-metabolic and bone health and improved psychological well-being.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the health benefits of increased participation by children in school sports over the last six years; and if he will make a statement. [81951]

Anne Milton: Participation in school sport supports children and young people to develop the skills and confidence to play sport and be physically active. The benefits of physical activity include healthy weight, enhanced cardio-metabolic and bone health and improved psychological well-being.

Initial findings from the recent establishment of 3,000 Change4Life school sports clubs in secondary schools are encouraging. We will shortly publish the independent evaluation of the first year of the programme.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote healthy lifestyles among school age children; and if he will make a statement. [81952]

Anne Milton: The Public Health White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', makes clear our life-course approach to health promotion. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the responsibility for health improvement and promotion will transfer to local authorities. They will receive ring-fenced funding from 2013 to promote healthy lifestyle choices by school-aged children such as risky sexual behaviour, smoking, drugs, alcohol and lack of physical activity.

The school nursing service plays a key role in supporting schools as health-promoting environments. The Department is developing a new vision for school nurses, drawing on views of young people and collaboration with the sector.

In addition, the Healthy Schools toolkit remains available for schools to support their work on health promotion and behaviour change. The Healthy Child Programme for school-aged children outlines for commissioners and professionals the evidenced based interventions to promote good health.

Furthermore, the new social marketing strategy 'Changing Behaviours, Improving Outcomes' recognises that young people need tailored support to assist them with making healthy and responsible choices. A new approach, to be launched next year, is being developed. It aims to reduce harmful lifestyle choices through better signposting for both young people and their parents to credible and high quality health advice.

Social Services

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people receiving care in the community in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [81863]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes data on the number of adults (aged 18 and over) receiving community-based services, funded either partially or wholly by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs).

Community-based services include home care, day care, meals, short-term residential (but not respite) care, direct payments, professional support, equipment and adaptations.

Information on such services which are arranged and funded privately by service users is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of people, aged 18 and over, who received community-based services from CASSRs in the period 1 April to 31 March, 2008-09 and 2009-10 in Kent and England.

	2008-09	*2009-10*
Kent	37,465	39,310
England total	1,537,380	1,464,140

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
NHS Information Centre—Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) Return P1

Provisional data for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 are due to be published by the Information Centre on 30 November 2011.

Surgery

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on the minimum number of procedures carried out per year required for an arterial centre to provide the most effective care for patients. [81408]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned research on this specific topic.

The National Institute for Health Research funds the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, one of the largest groups in the world engaged exclusively in evidence synthesis in the health field. The centre produces the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects, which is focused primarily on systematic reviews that evaluate the effects of health care interventions and the delivery and organisation of health services, including evidence on standards relating to vascular surgical procedures.

Transplant Surgery: Public Appointments

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to recruit a new national clinical director for transplantation following the retirement of the current appointee. [81437]

Anne Milton: On 9 November 2011, the Government announced that Chris Rudge has been appointed to chair a Transitional Steering Group (TSG). The TSG has been established to help maintain the momentum to achieve the target of a 50% increase in organ donation rates by 2013 pending the introduction of the NHS Commissioning Board. During the transitional period, the TSG will Focus on—optimising deceased donation rates through undertaking brainstem death testing and considering donation after cardiac death in all appropriate circumstances, increasing consent rates, increasing donation from emergency medicine, timely referral of donors and better donor management.

The independent Organ Donation Taskforce was established in December 2006 to identify barriers to organ donation and to recommend what action needed to be taken to increase organ donation within the United Kingdom. Chris Rudge was a member of the taskforce and wrote its first report, published in January 2008, "Organs for Transplants". The report made a total of 14 recommendations broadly to increase donor rates and to make organ donation a usual part of end-of-life care.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 23 November 2011

JUSTICE

Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Mr Doran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to bring the provisions of section 50 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 into force. [82199]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is liaising with the Ministry of Defence, Scottish Government and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in order to facilitate the implementation of the Coroners and Justice Act's provisions to allow for fatal accident inquiries (FAIs) in Scotland into the deaths abroad of service personnel.

Subject to the outcome of the Public Bodies Bill, we plan to implement the Coroners and Justice Act's FAI provisions as soon as practicable in 2012 in parallel with the Act's provisions to improve coroner investigations in England and Wales.

Child: Maintenance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-resident parents living in the London borough of Bexley have received *(a)* suspended and *(b)* custodial sentences for the non-payment of child maintenance in the last three years. [80312]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents living in the London Borough of Bexley have received (a) suspended and (b) custodial sentences for the non-payment of child maintenance in the last three years. [80312]

Where a non-resident parent fails to pay maintenance, there are a number of enforcement actions available. Money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's earnings if the non-resident parent is employed, money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's bank or building society account, or action can be taken through the courts.

The most serious forms of enforcement are commitment to prison or disqualification from driving. The decision whether to implement, and the length of the order, is at the discretion of a Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff in Scotland) where they are satisfied that a non-resident parent has "wilfully refused or culpably neglected" to pay child maintenance—but this is not a criminal sanction.

It is not possible to break down these figures specifically for those non-resident parents who have failed to pay maintenance for children residing in the London Borough of Bexley.

The following table shows the number of suspended committal sentences and committal sentences from April 2007 to March 2011 rounded to the nearest 5. These figures can be found on page 23 of the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/qss/QSS_sept_2011.pdf

April to March each year	*Suspended committal sentences*	*Committal sentences*
2007-08	480	25
2008-09	580	45
2009-10	760	45
2010-11	1,010	40

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Contempt of Court: Sentencing

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been imprisoned for contempt of court in each of the last 10 years by each of the divisions of the courts. [81867]

Mr Blunt: Detailed information collected centrally from court records by the Ministry of Justice on contempt of court beyond 2008 is limited to those occasions where an individual is tried, convicted and sentenced at the Crown Court under sections 8 and 14 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. Information on contempt of court at the magistrates court under the Contempt of Court Act is contained within a miscellaneous group of offences that cannot be separately analysed.

The following tables provide information on prison receptions for contempt of court from 1998 to 2008 (last available published), and defendants sentenced to immediate custody at the Crown Court under sections 8 and 14 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 from 2009 and 2010 in England and Wales.

Table 1: Prison receptions for contempt of court from 1998 to 2008 (England and Wales)

	Number of persons
1998	588
1999	586
2000	539
2001	442
2002	442
2003	426
2004	435
2005	384
2006	392
2007	297
2008	168

Table 2: Defendants sentenced to immediate custody at the Crown Court under sections 8 and 14 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, England and Wales, 2009-10

		2009	*2010*
Contempt of Court Act 1981	S 12(1)(a) & 14 Wilfully insult a Justice/Justices/witness/officer of the court/solicitor/counsel	12	19

1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Crime: Victims

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to commission research into victims' satisfaction levels with sentences handed down by courts. [82116]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice previously commissioned the Witness and Victim Experience Survey, which asked a subset of victims and witnesses about their experiences, perceptions and satisfaction with different aspects of the criminal justice system, including (for those whose cases resulted in convictions) whether they thought the sentence was fair. A Ministry of Justice research report summarising the main findings from the Witness and Victim Experience Survey 2009-10, and examining the factors associated with satisfaction, will be published in 2012.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice partially funds the British Crime Survey (BCS), which gathers information on the public's perceptions of and victims' satisfaction with various aspects of the criminal justice system, including confidence in and attitudes to sentencing. The BCS 2010-11 findings show that 39% of victims were confident that the criminal justice system is effective (compared with 44% of non-victims) and 56% of victims were confident that the criminal justice system is fair (compared with 63% of non-victims).

The Ministry of Justice has previously published BCS analysis which covered public attitudes to sentencing and the victim satisfaction with the police and CJS agencies. The report 'Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System: findings from the British Crime Survey 2002/03 to 2007/08' can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/public-confidence-cjs.htm

The Ministry of Justice reviews its research priorities regularly. We are currently considering whether to commission further examination of the BCS data on perceptions of sentencing. A final decision whether to proceed with this will be made in the context of wider research needs, relative priorities and the available budget.

Cybercrime: Prosecutions

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment his Department has made of the conviction rate for those charged for improper use of *(a)* public electronic communications networks and *(b)* social networking sites; [82030]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 on the conviction rate for people charged with improper use of *(a)* public electronic communications networks and *(b)* social networking sites; [82031]

(3) what assessment he has made of the operation of section 127(3) of the Communications Act 2003; and how many proceedings have been brought under this section of the Act since its implementation. [82033]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court and found guilty at all courts, and the conviction ratio for offences under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010, can be viewed in the table.

Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case, other than that which may be identified from a statute. It is not possible to separately identify those specific cases where the defendant was proceeded against for using a social networking site.

The Ministry of Justice has not made an assessment on the conviction ratio under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003, as the effective working of the Communications Act 2003 comes within the remit of the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts and the conviction ratio(%)[1], under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003[2], England and Wales, 2006-10[3, 4]

	2006	2007	20085	2009	2010
Proceeded against	550	680	872	1,126	1,511
Found guilty	377	498	693	873	1,186
Conviction ratio %	69	73	79	78	78

[1] The proportion of defendants proceeded against who were found guilty.
[2] Includes offence:
Communications Act 2003 under section 127
Sending or causing sending of grossly offensive/indecent/obscene/menacing or false message/matter by electronic communications network.
[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners held at HMP Peterborough are due for removal from the UK at the conclusion of their sentence in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [80987]

Mr Blunt: As at 30 September 2011 there were 92 male and 45 female foreign national prisoners detained in HMP Peterborough. Information on how many are due for removal from the UK at the conclusion of their sentence is not held centrally by the Ministry of Justice. However, UKBA report that they are currently considering for deportation 33 foreign nationals in HMP Peterborough

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Death

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have died from each cause in prison in each of the last five years. [82252]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service uses a classification system based on the apparent cause of death. The actual cause of death is not confirmed until the conclusion of the coroner's inquest which is held into all deaths in custody. The classification of death may change following an inquest or as new information emerges. The information is contained in the following table:

Males and females	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All causes	153	185	165	169	196
Homicide	0	2	3	0	[1]1
Natural causes	83	90	98	105	[1]124
Other non-natural	3	1	3	3	[1]5
Self-inflicted	67	92	61	61	[1]58
Unclassified	—	—	—	—	[2]8

[1] Provisional. The figures are derived from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Deaths in Prison Custody database.
[2] In 2010, a new category of unclassified was introduced.
Note:
The apparent cause of death is based on the NOMS classification of deaths in prison custody; the self-inflicted deaths category includes a wider range of deaths than suicides and the homicide category includes a wider range of deaths than murder. When comparing these figures with other published data it is important to determine what definitions are used.

Since the beginning of 2010, there has been an apparent increase in the number of deaths in custody where initially the cause of death is unknown and may be subject to further investigation by the coroner such as post mortem or toxicology tests and inquest and also the Prison and Probation Ombudsman's investigation.

This resulted in a new category of "unclassified deaths" being introduced to reflect cases where the cause of death cannot be immediately established and are subject to longer investigation. Upon receipt of the cause of death the classification is then updated.

Prisoners: Food

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent annually on food and subsistence for prisoners in each prison in each of the last 10 years. [81916]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows.

Total food costs—for each public sector prison establishment in England and Wales

£

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Acklington	397,772	432,488	443,335	498,371	504,225
Ashwell	274,767	353,351	395,638	381,808	364,254
Askham Grange	68,054	76,862	76,663	73,608	64,770
Aylesbury	198,564	207,023	209,420	208,373	245,752
Bedford	249,060	308,183	324,324	334,142	349,296
Belmarsh	468,094	553,735	544,446	693,064	639,004
Birmingham	516,434	555,325	632,359	776,416	967,956
Blakenhurst[1]	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	84,625	94,875	96,313	87,926	100,413
Brockhill[2]	77,167	101,610	101,194	94,703	103,026
Blantyre House	56,997	63,348	68,231	60,862	62,439
Blundeston	217,329	269,380	270,158	348,707	345,408
Brinsford	244,087	289,132	294,674	284,986	288,353
Bristol	269,570	355,009	326,914	328,211	345,419
Brixton	394,682	441,663	437,575	475,151	472,235
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—	—	—	—
Bullwood Hall	99,554	126,933	132,965	140,303	143,399
Bure[3]	—	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	146,471	210,885	223,003	223,488	235,649
Cardiff	323,584	381,551	374,100	407,903	446,644
Castington	156,782	223,693	232,222	225,342	255,088
Channings Wood	329,762	350,392	340,765	385,433	413,661
Chelmsford	240,615	376,408	345,313	449,395	464,714
Coldingley	189,248	247,793	249,103	276,425	285,976
Dartmoor	320,549	326,496	361,770	381,382	405,887
Deerbolt	242,831	259,033	290,883	282,042	319,851
Dorchester	117,443	133,356	150,317	152,758	155,114
Dover	146,565	141,568	139,993	226,666	218,009
Downview	192,734	131,071	146,067	159,005	168,797
Drake Hall	97,805	131,383	173,936	192,096	178,060
Durham	478,839	540,007	519,372	483,168	494,220
East Sutton Park	42,661	61,585	71,614	74,388	76,715
Eastwood Park	193,021	211,201	206,855	205,433	213,126
Elmley (includes Standford Hill)[4]	724,085	801,332	837,936	967,922	998,689
Swaleside[4]	382,026	440,847	468,176	454,841	460,363
Erlestoke	177,606	187,226	226,669	274,999	300,452
Everthorpe	251,510	288,070	248,468	311,354	313,184
Exeter	214,407	266,462	286,898	317,483	368,901
Featherstone	307,948	375,798	381,356	353,842	378,468
Feltham	424,329	453,025	589,190	762,472	723,302
Ford	184,839	255,779	312,909	373,048	368,006
Foston Hall	89,249	124,488	126,691	146,842	141,303
Frankland	335,714	493,995	467,318	481,341	433,334
Full Sutton	366,607	433,613	410,061	377,705	386,984
Garth	360,610	385,985	400,771	379,164	396,328
Gartree	230,156	239,312	234,976	255,221	313,647
Glen Parva	424,459	533,061	584,201	556,560	525,080
Gloucester	179,029	214,118	226,645	210,990	205,774
Grendon/Spring Hill	261,698	293,645	319,794	365,541	344,525
Guys Marsh	306,519	347,136	369,627	396,431	391,273
Haslar	83,314	114,708	92,952	72,688	78,996
Haverigg	240,636	319,618	324,026	350,960	354,680
High Down	379,857	481,039	512,452	504,814	546,490
Highpoint (Includes Edmunds Hill to 2007)	469,881	532,459	445,635	756,197	683,872
Edmunds Hill[5]	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	242,508	318,809	335,283	372,002	330,853

Total food costs—for each public sector prison establishment in England and Wales

£

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Hollesley Bay (includes Warren Hill)	175,607	199,170	251,425	300,039	325,041
Holloway	280,243	306,701	313,181	311,795	399,459
Holme House	—	—	—	—	—
Hull	320,004	420,911	530,094	723,147	699,072
Huntercombe	220,198	309,402	315,881	341,854	423,960
Kennet[3]	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston	96,642	111,229	124,521	129,985	105,210
Kirkham	328,414	367,361	380,253	424,606	355,565
Kirklevington	91,291	90,772	96,073	124,064	132,511
Lancaster Castle	93,312	148,127	136,948	141,735	136,506
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—
Latchmere House	75,859	80,921	93,983	104,367	90,307
Leeds	719,211	796,859	646,150	721,024	678,304
Leicester	205,317	270,312	266,652	250,685	249,542
Lewes	233,258	287,425	363,904	369,434	402,708
Leyhill	184,884	209,535	236,090	242,104	284,797
Lincoln	230,026	341,294	291,239	253,520	271,998
Lindholme	327,101	498,718	568,620	516,017	496,290
Littlehey	318,973	315,511	338,099	364,915	390,752
Liverpool	685,878	854,666	927,919	1,010,331	929,399
Long Lartin	284,632	302,918	390,050	295,054	308,188
Low Newton	138,336	176,154	180,989	194,149	204,905
Maidstone	304,117	230,995	321,573	348,381	339,869
Manchester	770,064	857,171	868,002	898,208	786,774
Moorland (Closed)	394,644	581,161	554,554	585,907	614,919
Moorland (Open)[6]	75,399	92,639	26,175	25,671	—
Morton Hall	64,133	108,415	152,321	217,147	232,060
Mount	393,708	429,038	447,344	461,778	450,090
New Hall	186,516	268,644	264,584	277,043	273,232
North Sea Camp	110,155	118,896	157,231	174,535	184,658
Northallerton	114,263	127,193	127,014	139,455	129,754
Norwich	361,315	431,555	437,097	415,263	425,872
Nottingham	241,923	365,592	347,511	327,442	309,829
Onley	331,949	429,753	428,802	404,287	440,261
Parkhurst (Includes Camp Hill, Albany)[7]	510,933	752,875	939,035	974,421	1,073,159
Pentonville	608,394	744,260	714,836	759,006	772,115
Portland	298,455	307,531	306,421	292,920	335,071
Preston	292,246	332,376	408,767	509,666	461,721
Ranby	373,088	460,277	496,156	571,391	579,826
Reading	—	—	—	—	—
Risley	438,074	497,207	582,199	717,018	698,681
Rochester (includes Cookham Wood)	279,792	272,645	268,637	292,490	485,007
Send	117,625	140,537	142,753	155,440	177,362
Shepton Mallet	87,361	100,303	114,674	112,822	122,508
Shrewsbury	162,489	189,926	214,367	211,955	196,244
Stafford	325,019	405,483	404,196	366,362	376,518
Stocken	329,451	382,591	395,989	407,533	411,094
Stoke Heath	279,973	348,659	408,012	491,316	503,991
Styal	269,379	296,277	311,887	333,788	319,454
Sudbury	242,118	296,282	310,087	307,089	305,044
Swansea	179,313	181,735	230,470	227,062	235,531
Swinfen Hall	171,581	244,567	244,074	205,679	293,268
Thorn Cross	131,676	144,311	144,201	152,634	181,996
Usk and Prescoed	148,803	170,391	174,977	219,812	243,817
Verne	323,086	329,891	329,654	324,617	363,737
Wakefield	289,641	349,014	339,003	342,931	301,508
Wandsworth	649,646	785,406	904,576	932,165	865,719
Wayland	321,532	381,193	439,790	493,715	521,735
Wealstun	355,931	388,325	391,235	388,886	502,604

Total food costs—for each public sector prison establishment in England and Wales

£

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Weare[8]	203,312	222,034	246,366	244,330	257,949
Wellingborough	314,896	401,749	386,755	371,388	394,829
Werrington	68,712	81,952	103,048	89,875	96,355
Wetherby	195,760	270,723	266,064	233,676	235,979
Whatton	130,223	160,055	150,293	207,268	207,910
Whitemoor	240,140	264,623	266,993	270,486	274,173
Winchester	308,727	362,330	384,072	420,737	478,778
Woodhill	—	—	—	—	—
Wormwood Scrubs	499,687	783,746	851,375	927,195	907,351
Wymott	423,005	478,720	511,242	537,471	655,463
Total per year	33,900,093	40,012,896	41,848,039	44,641,058	43,280,288

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Acklington	538,168	541,125	644,971	710,701	724,606
Ashwell	388,011	342,599	382,066	499,984	149,586
Askham Grange	62,692	66,153	70,080	88,602	85,479
Aylesbury	297,707	371,228	416,044	373,500	326,084
Bedford	361,087	379,457	356,710	428,593	368,787
Belmarsh	740,683	845,432	728,158	856,604	754,646
Birmingham	987,468	1,015,702	1,057,897	1,197,414	1,162,216
Blakenhurst[1]	712,034	759,739	802,665	—	—
Hewell Grange	135,910	160,295	237,447	1,139,479	1,013,615
Brockhill[2]	87,742	90,250	—	—	—
Blantyre House	66,909	72,717	76,968	100,229	93,245
Blundeston	339,215	360,547	382,894	452,518	399,409
Brinsford	321,877	360,551	334,663	467,770	426,768
Bristol	398,839	418,419	442,364	486,557	478,420
Brixton	478,962	503,258	512,117	550,076	493,444
Buckley Hall	229,798	367,311	337,066	380,292	302,438
Bullingdon	593,342	631,790	638,803	748,497	854,081
Bullwood Hall	112,705	118,760	146,650	171,331	160,326
Bure[3]	—	—	—	—	59,294
Canterbury	218,655	233,990	227,571	264,278	236,852
Cardiff	482,674	485,566	491,154	474,441	548,869
Castington	276,609	288,011	342,723	336,942	320,247
Channings Wood	412,824	398,835	525,764	548,454	564,327
Chelmsford	456,466	440,552	579,052	587,071	529,392
Coldingley	296,047	311,969	344,098	359,054	389,165
Dartmoor	419,327	424,356	449,484	525,105	454,563
Deerbolt	282,499	295,430	384,172	390,857	427,523
Dorchester	161,255	188,634	180,633	184,257	203,829
Dover	217,568	225,883	265,942	299,114	264,424
Downview	230,501	265,248	262,295	282,838	279,102
Drake Hall	186,705	237,362	213,543	221,182	192,447
Durham	529,033	670,754	737,290	768,677	765,958
East Sutton Park	75,559	53,348	44,304	85,840	78,411
Eastwood Park	203,335	226,089	246,847	297,517	256,646
Elmley (includes Standford Hill)[4]	1,006,944	972,478	[9]1,416,767	[9]1,631,417	[9]1,723,606
Swaleside[5]	475,985	487,933	[9]—	[9]—	[9]—
Erlestoke	309,654	328,747	336,260	384,894	341,106
Everthorpe	413,666	464,171	510,934	524,112	537,938
Exeter	365,049	383,227	369,145	361,631	383,798
Featherstone	388,442	416,462	524,392	559,294	540,623
Feltham	622,269	643,267	663,167	725,763	615,398
Ford	335,961	333,380	399,775	483,587	464,497
Foston Hall	160,964	179,768	210,236	217,678	209,527
Frankland	565,160	519,904	514,223	627,865	638,937
Full Sutton	418,533	445,989	453,639	515,521	491,186
Garth	381,532	448,069	473,910	711,827	645,060

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	£ 2009-10
Gartree	357,922	394,193	534,401	535,703	525,903
Glen Parva	568,945	566,596	692,706	777,744	619,149
Gloucester	211,000	228,701	229,774	226,544	232,802
Grendon/Spring Hill	341,306	226,065	396,120	440,938	401,653
Guys Marsh	408,971	421,461	421,410	435,146	467,747
Haslar	91,127	97,673	88,115	110,246	105,960
Haverigg	361,012	393,698	427,617	545,736	492,250
High Down	540,560	538,752	684,021	961,437	912,255
Highpoint (Includes Edmunds Hill to 2007)	745,485	874,858	673,748	719,448	723,248
Edmunds Hill[5]	—	—	314,136	374,988	290,455
Hindley	287,159	321,311	350,074	398,010	282,919
Hollesley Bay (includes Warren Hill)	325,152	204,650	387,750	518,081	466,746
Holloway	373,113	385,665	407,272	518,822	413,643
Holme House	657,690	633,999	807,774	799,855	842,068
Hull	712,178	695,526	713,336	797,121	723,220
Huntercombe	438,291	387,172	424,502	313,461	266,341
Kennet[3]	—	—	166,751	275,220	243,107
Kingston	148,265	168,499	154,342	146,547	151,287
Kirkham	435,304	551,878	478,145	577,924	482,301
Kirklevington	136,886	137,799	187,658	232,485	245,291
Lancaster Castle	167,980	205,153	175,647	190,887	184,877
Lancaster Farms	446,168	502,938	430,223	425,703	440,173
Latchmere House	77,786	83,506	80,226	83,945	75,283
Leeds	673,646	676,494	742,992	704,492	848,755
Leicester	246,924	244,356	255,250	294,519	278,621
Lewes	399,868	410,188	802,838	643,566	561,068
Leyhill	324,233	301,659	302,142	331,482	366,037
Lincoln	284,162	285,095	401,175	545,956	494,845
Lindholme	480,407	630,576	786,455	989,334	1,077,271
Littlehey	413,718	422,453	472,482	517,082	521,721
Liverpool	866,640	915,918	1,023,773	1,097,022	1,079,683
Long Lartin	320,785	358,783	336,235	372,781	521,061
Low Newton	202,911	221,134	245,136	308,410	241,438
Maidstone	348,910	393,922	357,424	382,656	474,538
Manchester	889,473	890,605	904,255	979,470	997,616
Moorland (Closed)	642,009	672,194	720,464	755,797	761,533
Moorland (Open)[6]	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	192,043	219,975	279,765	297,176	266,462
Mount	500,290	527,247	548,683	652,379	579,562
New Hall	256,200	268,832	333,440	360,521	314,486
North Sea Camp	184,394	186,650	184,574	212,339	195,435
Northallerton	136,665	160,583	179,391	189,134	166,328
Norwich	437,165	463,134	416,755	429,309	507,605
Nottingham	365,282	396,661	389,671	397,785	387,278
Onley	412,686	487,355	513,629	551,657	580,563
Parkhurst (Includes Camp Hill, Albany)[7]	1,198,835	1,200,152	1,316,990	1,362,849	1,470,982
Pentonville	765,737	732,855	906,530	929,771	976,889
Portland	317,639	403,517	400,372	499,480	443,338
Preston	464,127	555,685	549,529	596,743	609,257
Ranby	761,116	725,485	807,083	897,180	822,980
Reading	197,627	206,292	217,060	235,563	198,165
Risley	695,090	777,466	850,323	832,540	779,893
Rochester (includes Cookham Wood)	512,744	542,904	497,030	578,454	711,339
Send	178,010	191,883	196,896	277,651	266,802
Shepton Mallet	126,857	130,387	134,214	152,554	123,810
Shrewsbury	186,371	239,606	223,517	238,865	232,648
Stafford	405,301	524,460	476,295	498,210	534,796
Stocken	457,752	414,846	491,447	712,313	641,916
Stoke Heath	499,795	527,022	493,939	541,604	500,190
Styal	349,313	340,918	324,149	376,590	£ 345,326
Sudbury	313,502	329,868	332,847	408,507	425,364
Swansea	262,671	285,451	317,814	337,998	338,925
Swinfen Hall	520,333	458,104	528,256	587,570	504,778
Thorn Cross	170,000	192,154	189,082	228,456	220,863
Usk and Prescoed	245,419	236,175	263,189	313,821	313,931
Verne	356,413	378,865	441,275	421,696	401,401
Wakefield	326,421	450,155	551,809	611,638	604,537
Wandsworth	967,727	1,165,695	1,100,808	1,474,419	1,432,051
Wayland	520,384	552,883	641,244	903,037	747,110
Wealstun	573,712	582,577	627,229	506,164	421,787
Weare[8]	50,959	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	427,375	525,825	560,208	583,900	462,772
Werrington	110,401	119,461	129,244	158,966	112,791
Wetherby	277,294	309,629	301,885	318,682	297,437
Whatton	216,375	462,184	633,803	703,141	674,069
Whitemoor	294,902	326,060	340,481	380,468	411,930
Winchester	515,731	498,481	427,913	587,865	618,987
Woodhill	639,442	583,600	607,226	667,992	688,367
Wormwood Scrubs	919,789	861,361	864,170	1,045,236	1,023,310
Wymott	671,205	723,478	722,965	817,515	834,223
Total per year	48,653,445	51,484,146	55,623,979	62,227,660	59,959,424

[1] Merged with Hewell and Brockhill.
[2] Merged with Hewell Grange to form Hewell Prison.
[3] New Establishment.
[4] Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside merged to form Sheppey Cluster.
[5] HMP Edmunds Hill split from Highpoint in 2007.
[6] Moorland Open merged with Moorland Closed.
[7] Parkhurst—Renamed Isle of Wight 2008.
[8] Prison closed.
[9] Indicates brace.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to improve the support provided in the criminal justice system to prison officers who have been assaulted by offenders in the course of their duties. [81946]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) takes the health and safety of its staff very seriously. Safe systems of work, health and safety assessments, and a violence management information system are in place across the Prison Service estate to ensure that staff work in an environment that is as safe as possible. While NOMS cannot prevent every incident, it takes a zero tolerance approach to assaults of any kind. NOMS is confident that its systems are robust, and that suitable support and training is given to its staff.

Where staff are affected by violence, NOMS provides access to the Post Incident Care arrangements developed with experience of the operational environment in prisons and following guidelines produced by the National Institute of Clinical Health (NICE) on the Management of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Affected staff have access to critical incident debriefs, workplace support advisers, information on coping strategies, and where appropriate counselling services.

NOMS has completed a review of its violence reduction strategy which will be published in early 2012. This looks at good practice and how this can be shared effectively in the future. In addition, work is in hand across Government to harmonise contracts for occupational

health and employee assistance programmes across the civil service. This will ensure economies of scale whilst ensuring that the civil service meets the best in class employee support provided in the private sector.

Prisons: Private Sector

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what rules govern the recruitment of prison governors by private companies that are interested in bidding to run *(a)* public sector prisons and *(b)* a prison at which the individual was previously governor. [81993]

Mr Blunt: The Business Appointment Rules, set out in the Civil Service Management Code, place requirements on all serving civil servants, and on former civil servants for two years after their last day of service, who intend to take an outside appointment or employment after leaving the civil service. Before accepting any new appointment or employment, they must consider whether the rules require them to apply for approval. Serving prison governors, and ones who left the civil service up to two years previously, would be required to apply if their circumstances met one or more of the criteria set out in the rules. Applications from individuals at the level of prison governor are considered by the Department.

The rules would apply equally in all cases, including where a current or former prison governor was seeking employment, with a private company or to manage a former public sector prison establishment, and including where the individual had previously been the governor of that establishment. The nature of the prospective appointment would, however, be taken into account when determining whether any conditions should be placed on the approval of the application.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements govern the employment of former employees of his Department and its associated agencies by private sector companies that deliver justice services on behalf of the public sector. [81994]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Business Appointment Rules, set out in the Civil Service Management Code, place requirements on all serving civil servants, and on former civil servants for two years after their last day of service, who intend to take an outside appointment or employment after leaving the civil service. Before accepting any new appointment or employment, they must consider whether the rules require them to apply for approval.

Prostitution: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he provides to *(a)* Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority case officers and *(b)* members of the First-tier Tribunal on dealing with unspent convictions for soliciting for prostitution in connection with Rule 13(e) of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance. [82174]

Mr Djanogly: Responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) lies with CICA. Their claims officers interpret the Scheme (which has been approved by Parliament) and take all decisions on individual applications.

CICA produce internal guidance that helps claims officers take account of all relevant issues in making decisions. I have asked them to place a copy of their guidance relating to unspent convictions for soliciting for prostitution in the parliamentary Library.

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), does not provide guidance notes to First-tier Tribunal members because the judiciary are entirely independent of the Government.

Rape: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been given to *(a)* Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority case officers and *(b)* members of the First-tier Tribunal (Social Entitlement Chamber) since the Stern review into how rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales to ensure that applicants in rape cases are not disadvantaged by Rules 13(1)a and b of the Scheme; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [82225]

Mr Djanogly: Responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) lies with CICA. Their claims officers interpret the Scheme (which has been approved by Parliament) and take all decisions on individual applications.

CICA produce internal guidance that helps claims officers take account of all relevant issues in making decisions.

I have asked CICA to place a copy of their internal policy guidance on relevant paragraphs in the parliamentary Library. CICA have updated this guidance since the Stern review, most recently on 2 June 2011.

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), does not provide training or guidance notes to First-tier Tribunal members because the judiciary are entirely independent of the Government. The tribunal is drawn from a judicial panel appointed by the Lord Chancellor and makes its decision based on the law.

Sexual Offences: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration is given to any particular difficulties which may be experienced by rape and adult sexual assault victims in *(a)* reporting offences to the police and *(b)* giving evidence in court when applying the criteria which are set out in paragraphs 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the guidance for applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. [81834]

Mr Djanogly: CICA compensate blameless victims of violent crime according to the rules Parliament set out in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme). The paragraphs the hon. Gentleman refers to are in CICA's guide to the compensation scheme, which CICA produce in order to help members of the public apply for compensation. They explain how CICA apply

paragraphs 13 (1) (a) and 13 (1) (b) of the Scheme. I have today placed a copy of CICA's internal guidance on these Scheme paragraphs in the parliamentary Library in response to question 82225.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what specific training is provided to Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and First Tier Tribunal personnel dealing with rape and sexual assault claimants; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any relevant training documentation. [81837]

Mr Djanogly: CICA staff receive guidance to support them in handling all claims, including claims by victims of sexual assault, quickly, fairly, sensitively and courteously. CICA caseworkers receive full training on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the scheme) and its application.

The training and guidance documentation CICA produce goes through the scheme paragraph by paragraph and mentions sexual assault where appropriate, rather than having an individual section dealing with sexual assault. CICA have advised that their claims officers learn through applying this guidance to real cases with an experienced mentor. I have therefore asked CICA to place all parts of their internal guidance that mention claims arising from sexual offences in the parliamentary Library.

CICA have advised that, because this guidance is held in an internal database system, it will take CICA around a week to compile it and make it available in a readable format for general use. The guidance is constantly under review and frequently updated, so the material placed in the Library is valid only on the day extraction began—18 November 2011.

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), does not provide training or guidance notes to first-tier tribunal members because the judiciary are entirely independent of the Government. The tribunal is drawn from a judicial panel appointed by the Lord Chancellor and makes its decision based on the law. This function is headed by the Social Entitlement Chamber President, thereby ensuring the impartiality of the judiciary.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority refused *(a)* at first instance, *(b)* at review and *(c)* on appeal claims for compensation by claimants for rape and sexual adult assault compensation where there has not been a complaint to police, a charge brought or a prosecution in the last year for which figures are available. [81838]

Mr Djanogly: CICA do not have figures showing how many people were refused compensation categorised by reference to specific crimes. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme), which was approved by Parliament in 2008, provides for awards to be assessed primarily by reference to criminal injuries. Injury descriptions, from the Scheme's 'tariff of injuries', are therefore used as the primary basis for calculating and recording payments actually made, and these would only be applied to someone's case if they were assessed as eligible to receive the associated payment.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child: Poverty

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children living in poverty in each council ward in Warrington North constituency. [81728]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as those requested. However, figures at a regional level for north-west are available. Three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

Statistics covering 2007-08 to 2009-10 are the most recent available.

The following table shows the proportion and number of children living in relative poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the UK, for 2007-08 to 2009-10 in the north-west.

Number and proportion of children living in relative poverty (BHC) in the north-west

Region	*Number (million)*	*Proportion (percentage)*
North-west	0.4	25

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
2. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
4. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost rather than an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The reference period for these HBAI figures is three financial years.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.
8. Proportions of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
9. This measure is defined as:
Relative poverty: children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income.
10. The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three further income-based UK-wide targets to be met by 2020. The targets are based on the proportion of children living in households with combined low income and material deprivation, absolute low income and persistent poverty.

Source:
Households Below Average Income 1994-05 to 2009-10, DWP

Disability Living Allowance

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the medical reassessment programme for individuals claiming disability benefits in reducing the number of claimants; and what the change has been in the number of claimants since its inception. [81348]

Chris Grayling: The reassessment of old-style incapacity benefits claimants is a key part of the Government's reform agenda to create and deliver a 21st century welfare system by ensuring that those people who can work are given the correct help and support to do so. The reassessment of existing incapacity benefits customers was rolled out nationally from April 2011.

Incapacity benefit (IB) recipients will undergo a work capability assessment to determine benefit entitlement, and, if eligible, will move to employment and support allowance, which replaced IB for new claims from October 2008. We estimate that about 1.5 million people will go through the IB reassessment process, which is expected to run until 2014.

More details of the likely impacts of IB reassessment are available in the impact assessment from page 5 of the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/875/pdfs/uksiem_20100875_en.pdf

There are currently 2.6 million people of working age on employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits. Early estimates suggest that overall the numbers on these benefits have been gradually decreasing. These can be found at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=early_ests

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the number of work capability assessments completed for claimants in receipt of employment and support allowance. The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

2. Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process but only once they have been quality assured and is considered robust.

Employment and Support Allowance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effects of time-limiting of contributory employment and support allowance on health and social care budgets. [80474]

Chris Grayling: The Department published an impact assessment of the proposal to time limit contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) to one year for those in the work-related activity group. This is available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf

The main effect is an increased eligibility for income-related benefits which are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The impact assessment also stated that there may be some related impacts for health budgets. For example, those who become eligible for income-related ESA may also be eligible for passported benefits such as free NHS prescriptions. However, the costs of this have not been fully incorporated in the overall costs in the impact assessment due to the uncertainty over the likely take-up of these benefits for the groups affected and variability in the devolved Administrations.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for employment and support allowance (ESA) were refused in the last 12 months; how many had zero points allocated; how many such claims were by cancer patients; how many claimants were recalled for a further medical assessment for ESA eligibility after 12 months; how many such people were again refused; how many of them subsequently appealed; and if he will make a statement. [80573]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the work capability assessment (WCA) rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

Table 1 provides details of the number of work capability assessments held between June 2010 and May 2011. The figures are broken down for all initial and all repeat WCAs held.

A repeat WCA is the second or subsequent WCA undertaken on an existing, continuous ESA claim. These claimants will have already been assessed as having a limited capability for work at their initial WCA and the repeat WCA will assess if their capability for work has changed.

The table also shows the number of claims that are assessed as being fit for work (FFW) and of these, the number that were awarded zero points. The final column presents the number of claims whose main health condition is cancer related (neoplasms), that were found fit for work and scored zero points at the WCA. The data on health conditions are based on the information recorded on the medical certificate ('fitnote') provided by a person's GP when they first make a claim for ESA. This represents what their GP considers to be the reason a person cannot work at that time. However, many people applying for ESA will in fact have more than one condition, these conditions may affect each other and may change over time.

Table 1. WCA outcomes for assessments held between June 2010 and May 2011

Initial or repeat WCA	*Total WCA held*	*Total FFW outcomes*	*Total FFW with zero points*	*Total FFW neoplasms with zero points*
Initial	447,500	264,800	202,000	2,000
Repeat	158,100	50,800	35,100	1,600
Total	605,700	315,600	237,100	3,700

Table 2 as follows provides information on the number of completed appeals against a fit for work decision for claims starting between September 2009 and August

2010 (the latest 12 monthly period for which data is available). Again, this has been broken down for all initial and all repeat WCAs held.

Table 2. ESA Appeals against a FFW decision. Claims starting between September 2009 and August 2010

	Number
Appeal against initial WCA	91,200
Appeal against repeat WCA	6,000
Total	97,200

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in October 2011 and can be found here:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeals include ESA claims started from September 2009 up to the end of August 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be Fit for Work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service.
4. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.
5. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and are consistent with the official statistics publication referred to in footnote 1 above.

Employment and Support Allowance: Atos Healthcare

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about medical assessments for employment and support allowance conducted by Atos Healthcare were recorded in *(a)* St Helens South and Whiston constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each year since 2008. [81334]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare does not record complaints by parliamentary constituency or by a regional area such as Merseyside but by Medical Services Centre (MSC).

Therefore, data have been provided for Bootle MSC (the MSC responsible for ESA referrals in the St Helens South and Whiston constituency and the Merseyside area) and for the nine MSCs in located in England (Birmingham, Bootle, Bristol, Croydon, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Wembley).

	ESA only			
Region	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*[1]
Bootle MSC	0	81	118	136
English MSCs	1	1377	1939	1574

[1] To date.

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical assessments for employment and support allowance were conducted by Atos Healthcare in *(a)* St Helens South and Whiston constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each year since 2008. [81335]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the work capability assessment (WCA) rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the number of work capability assessments (WCAs) completed for claimants in receipt of ESA. The latest report was published in October 2011 and presents completed assessments to May 11 (which are the latest data available). The report and tables can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

(a) Information on the number of WCAs completed for St Helens South and Whiston constituency is unavailable so data for Knowsley and St Helens local authorities have been provided in tables 1and 2. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred and as a result may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 1: Completed assessments in Knowsley

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
2008 (from October)	0	0	0
2009	1,300	0	1,300
2010	2,100	400	2,500
2011 (to May)	600	300	1,000
Total	4,000	800	4,800

Table 2: Completed assessments in St Helens

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
2008 (from October)	0	0	0
2009	1,300	0	1,300
2010	2,000	400	2,400
2011 (to May)	600	300	1,000
Total	3,900	800	4,700

(b) The number of completed assessments in Merseyside is shown in table 3. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred and as a result may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 3: Completed assessments in Merseyside

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
2008 (from October)	0	0	0
2009	10,000	200	10,100
2010	14,900	2,600	17,500
2011 (to May)	5,800	2,500	8,300
Total	30,700	5,300	36,000

(c) The number of completed assessments in England is shown in table 4. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred and as a result may not sum to the totals shown.

Table 4: Completed assessments in England

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
2008 (from October)	700	0	700
2009	243,100	4,100	247,100
2010	355,800	79,300	435,100
2011 (to May)	149,200	70,200	219,500

Table 4: Completed assessments in England

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
Total	748,800	153,700	902,400

Notes:
1. Employment and support allowance was introduced in October 2008 therefore most figures for 2008 are small and may round to zero.
2. The latest data available are for May 2011 so a partial year is presented for 2011.
3. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.
4. Merseyside includes Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral local authority areas.

Employment Schemes

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will investigate reports that prime contractors to the Work programme are referring clients to volunteer centres without making payments to those centres; and if he will make a statement. [81850]

Chris Grayling: The DWP holds contracts with prime providers; we do not therefore get involved in the arrangements between prime providers and other organisations. Those terms are a matter for the interested parties to agree.

While the DWP encourages Work programme providers to forge strategic relationships with local partners, providers and their subcontractors should not be approaching voluntary organisations if they do not have an agreement with them.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he would intervene in a reported breach of contract between a Work Programme prime provider and one of its subcontractors without first receiving a complaint from the subcontractor. [81910]

Chris Grayling: The Department expects subcontractors and prime providers to work together to resolve any issues as this is a commercial matter for the parties involved. We are committed to supporting healthy business relationships between prime providers and their subcontractors. The Merlin standard allows for independent mediation should the prime provider's internal complaints procedure fail to reach settlement.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the data on referrals to the Work programme to be published in April 2012 will be provided at the level of individual Tier 1 and Tier 2 subcontractors. [81911]

Chris Grayling: Work programme Official Statistics for referrals will be published in the quarterly statistical summary in Spring 2012. Details of the lower level geography information that will be published are yet to be decided, however we hope to be able to release figures by local authority, parliamentary constituency and contract package area as well as a standard set of demographic breakdowns. There are no plans to publish below prime contractor level.

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are working on the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [81444]

Chris Grayling: The examination of these issues draws on existing resources in the Department for Work and Pensions.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Ministerial-level meetings have been held in his Department as part of the Government's examination of the balance of existing European Union competences. [81445]

Chris Grayling: The Department routinely holds ministerial meetings on issues covered in the coalition agreement.

Housing Benefit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on predicted savings to the public purse from restrictions on housing benefit based on size criteria of exempting households with a disabled child. [81930]

Steve Webb: Of the estimated 670,000 working-age households in receipt of housing benefit and likely to be affected when the social sector size criteria is introduced in 2013-14, around 20,000 households would be likely to include a disabled child.

Exempting these households from the size criteria would reduce anticipated savings in housing benefit expenditure by around £15 million in 2013-14.

The estimate of 20,000 affected households includes cases where disability living allowance is received by, or in respect, of a dependent child, (regardless of whether it relates to care or mobility, or the rate at which it is paid); or where a child has been registered as blind. Alternative definitions of disability would be likely to produce differing estimates.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on predicted savings to the public purse of exempting the first underoccupied bedroom from the size criteria for housing benefit. [81931]

Steve Webb: Exempting the first underoccupied bedroom for housing benefit claimants living in the social rented sector would reduce the numbers likely to be affected by the size criteria in 2013-14 from approximately 670,000 working-age households, to around 150,000.

The effect of this would be to reduce anticipated savings in housing benefit expenditure by more than £350 million in 2013-14.

Incapacity Benefit

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will *(a)* lose incapacity

benefit and *(b)* lose all benefits in (i) Easington constituency and (ii) the North East as a consequence of his proposed changes to the benefits system. [81020]

Chris Grayling: No such estimate has been made.

The impacts of the proposed changes to the benefit system as set out in the Welfare Reform Bill are available in the associated impact assessments at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare%2Dreform/legislation%2Dand%2Dkey%2Ddocuments/welfare%2Dreform%2Dbill%2D2011/impact%2Dassessments%2Dand%2Dequality/

The impacts of these proposals have been calculated at an aggregate, Great Britain, level and cannot be reliably broken down for smaller geographical areas.

The main forthcoming change to incapacity benefits is the proposal to time limit contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group. This is expected to affect around 700,000 people by 2015/16, of which around 60% are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

The remaining 40% are not expected to qualify for income-related ESA because they have other income, including that from a partner. These people will no longer receive ESA benefit payments, but will be able to retain National Insurance credits by becoming an ESA credits-only claimant. They may also see increases in other benefits such as tax credits and housing benefit.

Incapacity Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely change in the number of (i) incapacity benefit claimants and (ii) those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* the number of people who will cease to receive benefit while not in employment (A) in each local authority area and (B) of each gender by 2014. [81729]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The available information is in the table:

Great Britain (total claimants)	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*Change 2010-11 to 2013-14*
(i) Incapacity benefit (thousand)	1,024	771	407	91	-933
(ii) Jobseeker's allowance (thousands)	1,302	1,375	1,342	1,243	-59

(b) The information requested is not available. Projections for the numbers of people receiving benefits are not produced by employment status or below Great Britain level. Forecasts for Great Britain to 2015 can be found on the DWP's website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Note:

The Department's forecasts for the numbers of people receiving benefits were published following the Office of Budget Responsibility's March Budget 2011 forecast, as set out in Table C1. An update to those forecasts will be published on 21 December 2011 following the Office for Budget Responsibility's publication of their autumn forecasts on 29 November 2011.

Source:

Budget 2011 forecasts and DWP statistical data

Railways: Employment

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to estimate the *(a)* number, *(b)* type and *(c)* duration of jobs created by the (i) Intercity Express Programme and (ii) Thameslink Rolling Stock Programme. [76541]

Mrs Villiers: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 771W.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus has employed staff to visit other EU countries to offer advice to EU nationals considering applying for jobs in the UK since its inception. [81152]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus employs 12 staff who specialise in giving advice to jobseekers looking for work in another EU member state. This is part of our commitment to the network of public employment services in Europe called EURES. EURES—the European Employment Services network—was established in 1994 by the European Commission to facilitate the free movement of workers within the EU. Jobcentre Plus EURES advisers organise job fairs for UK jobseekers wanting to work in Europe and attend job fairs in other EU countries to inform EU nationals about the UK labour market. Their advice is centred on deterring unplanned migration to the UK and discouraging applications to sectors where there is already intense competition and high unemployment.

The legal base for EURES dates back to Commission Decision 93/569/EEC of 22 October 1993 on the implementing of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community as regards, in particular, the establishment of the EURES network.

Jobcentre Plus has by far the least number of EURES advisers per capita of all the participating countries (12 compared to 100 in both France and Germany). There are more than 800 EURES advisers in the European public employment services. In the UK team, as well as the 12 EURES advisers there are six other staff members whose responsibilities cover a wide range of duties. In total, those staff who work on EURES related work are:

2 Band Es—EURES manager, EURES delivery manager,

2 Band Ds—EURES adviser line manager, EURES co-ordinator,

1 Band C—Budget co-ordinator and 1 Band C—Communications co-ordinator

12 Band C—EURES advisers (11 in post, one vacant)

All Jobcentre Plus travel costs, subsistence and other operational costs for EURES activities are reimbursed by the European Commission through an annual grant agreement with DWP (annual value of €350,000).

Jobcentre Plus exchanges vacancies with other EU countries through the EURES website:

www.eures.europa.eu

From July to November 2011 Jobcentre Plus EURES advisers attended 35 job fairs in 19 EU/EEA countries (France: five; Italy: four; Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Norway: three; Poland: two; Ireland, Netherlands, Estonia, Malta, Iceland, Portugal, Czech republic, Hungary, Greece, Latvia, Austria, Slovenia: one).

Personal Records: Departmental Co-ordination

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations about the Tell Us Once service with particular reference to whether they can participate. [82197]

Chris Grayling: The Tell Us Once programme has worked very closely with officials from the devolved Administration in Scotland, initially to support the introduction of TUO there, and have consulted with and kept them informed throughout all stages of the piloting and implementation. A letter was sent to MSPs on 14 November advising them of the national rollout of TUO in Scotland. To date 13 local authorities (40.6%) are live with TUO, 29 (90.6%) of LAs have agreed to deliver the service with only three LAs remaining undecided on whether to offer the service.

In Wales the Tell Us Once programme has worked closely with the Office of the Chief Information Officer, initially to support the take up of the Tell Us Once service among unitary authorities in Wales and more recently to keep them informed of the progress that has been made in the delivery of the service across all 22 Welsh local authorities.

My officials have been engaged with officials in Northern Ireland to discuss how the TUO service may be made available there in future. This level of engagement will continue and further consultations will take place once the service has been implemented across England, Wales and Scotland.

Remploy

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in St Helens South and Whiston constituency Remploy employment services has assisted to find *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time employment lasting more than (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) a year in each of the last five years. [80954]

Maria Miller: The information is provided in the following table:

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT
Over three months	—	1	—	2	—	6	3	—	7	7
Over six months	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	9	10
Over 12 months	3	10	1	10	3	20	8	4	1	7

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT
Total	3	11	1	12	3	29	11	7	17	24

PT = part-time
FT = full-time
Note:
Between 2006-07 and 2010-11 Remploy assisted 73 people into employment of less than three months.
Source:
Remploy

Social Exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology his Department uses to estimate the number of people experiencing social exclusion; and whether this methodology has changed since May 2010. [81935]

Chris Grayling: Social exclusion is a multi-faceted concept. Departmental analysts use a variety of methodological techniques, as appropriate, to analyse survey and administrative data relevant to social exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Work programme on tackling social exclusion. [81941]

Chris Grayling: It will be some time yet before it is possible to assess the performance of the Work programme in getting people back to work. As participation lasts for two years, we expect to see substantial indications of the success of the Work programme from spring 2013. A full independent evaluation has been commissioned for that year and I look forward to sharing the results with the House in due course. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of the programme in the interim.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the risk of people aged 16 to 24 claiming jobseeker's allowance experiencing long-term cycles of deprivation. [81942]

Chris Grayling: There is a risk that an extended period of unemployment when young can impact on later earnings potential, increase the probability of a future spell out of work, or have a wider detrimental effect on health and well-being.

As a result the Government's policies focus on keeping young people active in their job search and helping them to engage in real work with employers. This is supported by access to work experience opportunities and referrals to apprenticeships and sector-based work academies.

This ensures that most young people flow off jobseeker's allowance quickly. Of the around 125,000 16 to 24-year-olds currently joining JSA each month, 60% leave within the first three months and 80% within six months. Those who need more intensive support or who become long-term unemployed are referred to the Work programme at three or nine months.

Social Security Benefits

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs have been of administration of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance for each of the last three years. [80363]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Direct staff administration costs

	2008/09	2009/10	£ million 2010/11
Disability living allowance	55.7	55.3	49.9
Incapacity benefit	81.3	57.7	29.7
Employment support allowance	19.1	95.6	90.6

Source:
Activity Based Management system

Figures shown cover the last three financial years for which final audited accounts are available. Costs are the total administration costs including the cost of appeals. Existing incapacity benefit claimants began migrating to employment support allowance in the latter half of 2009/10.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what average period a claimant of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance was claiming the allowance in the financial year (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [81550]

Chris Grayling: When asked for average duration, our normal practice is to provide a distribution of length of current claims (caseload) or completed claims (off-flows). This is more informative than a single summary figure, as it provides information on how varied the lengths of the claims are as well as the length of a typical claim.

Table 1 shows the average (median) duration for jobseeker's allowance off-flows—the median is the standard measure for average duration.

Table 2 shows employment and support allowance off-flows by duration. Some development work has taken place on calculation of average (median) durations for benefits other than JSA but further development needs to be undertaken on better understanding the robustness and interpretation of the results.

Table 1: Jobseeker's allowance median duration of off-flows in Great Britain for each year shown

Date	Total off-flows	Median duration (weeks)
April 2009 to March 2010 (inclusive)	3,846,130	10.9
April 2010 to March 2011 (inclusive)	3,823,050	11.4

Notes:
1. Off-flows have been rounded to the nearest 10, duration to one decimal place.
2. Data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source:
100% Count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems

Table 2: Employment and support allowance off-flows in Great Britain by duration of claim: May 2009 to February 2011

Date	Total	Up to three months	Three to six months	Six months up to one year	One year up to two years	Two years and over
May 2009	50,490	24,020	24,860	1,610	*	*
August 2009	80,450	26,460	36,590	17,410	*	*
November 2009	109,670	30,770	41,470	36,620	810	*
February 2010	102,790	25,620	35,300	35,160	6,720	*
May 2010	118,610	30,760	38,120	35,970	13,770	*
August 2010	131,180	32,010	42,660	34,930	21,580	*
November 2010	135,020	33,700	42,620	35,330	23,180	200
February 2011	123,120	28,340	41,200	31,340	20,170	2,050

"*" = Denotes nil or negligible.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Off-flows are total number of spells on ESA that ended within the quarter. A person may flow on and off the same benefit more than once during a quarter.
5. Data are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_off/esa/tabtool_esa.html
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants have had their benefits stopped because of failure to respond to Benefits Integrity Centre telephone spot checks in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many complaints in each complaint category his Department has received concerning these checks. [81715]

Chris Grayling: Following a review of entitlement by a Benefit Integrity Centre, 16,317 claims have been closed in the period 1 April 2011 to 31 October 2011. This figure includes claims that have been closed due to claimants failing to respond to requests for information, and claims where a decision has been made that there is no longer an entitlement to benefit after reviewing the claim. Claims closure data are not kept by category.

In total, 97 written inquiries and complaints have been received by Benefit Integrity Centres in the period but these data are not kept by category.

Unemployment: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the unemployment rate was in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [82013]

Chris Grayling: Northern Ireland has had a separate social security system and a separate national insurance fund for many years and is responsible for its own employment policy.

The request for this information should, therefore, be addressed to the Northern Ireland Executive.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people of working age were on unemployment benefits in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [82014]

Chris Grayling: Northern Ireland has had a separate social security system and a separate national insurance fund for many years.

The request for this information should, therefore, be addressed to the Northern Ireland Executive.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition he plans to use of "in work" when setting the universal credit household benefit cap. [81912]

Chris Grayling: We are introducing the benefit cap to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment. In support of these objectives, households which contain a member who is eligible for working tax credit will be exempt from the cap. We are still considering the precise criteria for a corresponding exemption under universal credit.

Welfare Reform: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his welfare reform proposals in Northern Ireland. [82011]

Chris Grayling: Northern Ireland has had a separate social security system and a separate National Insurance Fund for many years. Responsibility for social security, child support and pensions in Northern Ireland rests with its Department for Social Development. It is, therefore, a matter for the Minister for Social Development to arrange for any assessment of the possible effects of the welfare reform proposals in Northern Ireland.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the potential effects of his planned welfare reform proposals. [82012]

Chris Grayling: Responsibility for Social Security in Northern Ireland rests with the Northern Ireland Executive. However, as required under Section 87 of the Northern Ireland Act, the Department of Work and Pensions keeps in regular contact with the Northern Ireland Executive on the subject of welfare reform at both ministerial and official levels.

This includes recent trips to Northern Ireland by both the Minister for Disabled People, the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), and my noble Friend the Lord Freud. These trips included meetings with Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive. Officials also meet regularly.

Work Capability Assessment

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to people undertaking a work capability assessment who suffer from medical conditions that fluctuate. [81982]

Chris Grayling: The Work Capability Assessment (WCA) has been specifically designed to give people with conditions which fluctuate the opportunity to explain how their condition varies over time. The questionnaire that customers are sent has been redesigned so that people are directly asked if their mental or physical functions vary, and asked to give more details of how this affects them as an individual.

The health care professionals who carry out the WCA are trained to ask about and take account of fluctuation. The assessment is not a snapshot. If a person cannot carry out a function repeatedly and reliably they will be treated as unable to carry out that function at all.

The activities and descriptors used in the assessment were developed in consultation with medical experts and representative groups to ensure that they are appropriate for all conditions. The consultation involved considerable discussion about the variability of some conditions and we have now made some changes in this area.

We are committed to continuous improvement of the WCA to ensure the assessment is as fair and accurate as possible. Professor Malcolm Harrington, a highly respected occupational physician, is due shortly to publish his second independent review of the WCA. Recognising that particular concerns have been raised about the way the WCA works for people with fluctuating conditions, Professor Harrington asked leading charities, including the MS Society, to make recommendations to refine the descriptors used in the WCA as part of this review.

We look forward to publishing Professor Harrington's recommendations.

Work Capability Assessment: Multiple Sclerosis

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to having only medical practitioners who are specialists in multiple sclerosis carrying out work capability assessments for sufferers of the disease. [81981]

Chris Grayling: The contract between the DWP and Atos Healthcare requires that face-to-face WCA assessment of claimants with multiple sclerosis must be carried out by a doctor.

There is, however, no requirement for Atos to employ specialist doctors to conduct assessments because entitlement to benefit is based upon the functional

impairment associated with the underlying medical condition, rather than the nature of the medical condition itself.

For this reason all doctors who carry out assessments for benefit purposes are trained in disability assessment medicine and this includes assessment of people with multiple sclerosis.

All doctors working for Atos are provided with an evidence based protocol on multiple sclerosis as part of their initial training. In addition, there is learning set on multiple sclerosis and motor neurone disease available to all doctors as part of Atos' continuing medical education programme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

2010 Drugs Strategy

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has set terms of reference for the annual review of the 2010 Drugs Strategy; and whether she plans to publish the findings of the review. [81723]

James Brokenshire: The Government's Drug Strategy "Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to Live a Drug Free Life", published in December 2010, included a commitment to an annual review. This will review the strategy and provide a status update on the first full year of implementation. We are aiming to publish by the end of March 2012.

Asylum

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases concerned people resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since March 2007; and how many such asylum seekers received support from the National Asylum Support Service. [81456]

Damian Green: Information is not held in relation to the specific date that individuals move to certain areas. We have therefore provided figures for the number of legacy asylum cases based on the applicant's last known address with postcodes in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. The total number of people with legacy asylum cases who are resident in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency is 40.

The National Asylum Support Service has not provided support to any asylum seekers within the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency.

Source:

Local Management information provided by the UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI team. It is not a national statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Asylum: Libya

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on Libyans stranded in refugee camps who wish to claim asylum in the UK. [82026]

Damian Green: As a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the UK fully considers all asylum applications lodged in the UK. However, the UK's international obligations under the convention do not extend to the consideration of asylum applications lodged abroad and there is no provision in our immigration rules for someone overseas to be given permission to travel to the UK to seek asylum.

Bolivia: Drugs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the maintenance of the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of *(a)* Bolivia re-acceding to the Convention with a reservation on coca leaf and *(b)* Bolivia's re-accession being denied due to their requirement of a reservation on coca leaf; [82202]

(2) if she will take into account *(a)* the right of Bolivia to make use of article 14 of the 1988 UN Convention on Drug Trafficking stating that signatories shall take due account of traditional licit uses, where there is historic evidence of such use and *(b)* Bolivia's need to adhere to its constitution and the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in her response to the Bolivian application for re-accession to the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs with a reservation on coca leaf. [82203]

James Brokenshire: The Government are currently considering how to respond to Bolivia's withdrawal from and forthcoming reapplication to the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, and in doing so are taking into account all relevant international agreements, including the UN convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People 2007, as well as the Bolivian Constitution. The Government are also assessing the effect of all possible outcomes on the maintenance of the convention.

British Nationality

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the citizenship data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011 table cz.09, refusals of citizenship by reason, how many refusals were due to the applicant being not of good character as a result of committing a criminal offence in the UK. [82108]

Damian Green: The available statistics are given in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify refusals of British citizenship due to a criminal conviction within the published figures before December 2007 when a specific code for this outcome was introduced to the UK Border Agency Case Information Database.

Refusals of British citizenship by selected reason

Year of refusal	*Not of good character—criminal conviction*	*Total refusals and withdrawals*
2002	n/a	8,331
2003	n/a	10,555
2004	n/a	13,818
2005	n/a	16,642
2006	n/a	15,309

Refusals of British citizenship by selected reason

Year of refusal	Not of good character—criminal conviction	Total refusals and withdrawals
2007	7	15,628
2008	1,397	9,086
2009	1,515	10,251
2010	1,185	7,974

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1. Derived from table cz.09 published in 'Immigration Statistics—April to June 2011'.
2. Data for 2010 are provisional figures.
3. Data presented relate to number of persons.
4. Cases dealt with in the United Kingdom.
Source:
Migration Statistics

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on persons refused British citizenship, from which the data in this reply are derived, are given in table 'cz.09' of the statistical release 'Immigration Statistics April-June 2011'. This publication is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2011/

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to the citizenship data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011 table cz.09, refusals of citizenship by reason, how many applicants not of good character were subsequently removed from the UK; [82109]

(2) with reference to the citizenship data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011 table cz.01, citizenship applications, grants and refusals, how many *(a)* applicants for British citizenship and *(b)* successful applicants for British citizenship were individuals who originally came to the UK as an asylum seeker in each of the last five years. [82110]

(3) with reference to the citizenship data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, table cz.01 citizenship applications, grants and refusals, how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* successful applicants for British citizenship were from individuals who had spent a period of time illegally residing in the UK in each of the last five years. [82111]

Damian Green: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a substantial data—matching exercise which would exceed the cost threshold.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the citizenship data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, table cz.01 citizenship applications, grants and refusals, how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* successful applicants for British citizenship were from each country of origin or birth in each of the last five years. [82112]

Damian Green: The following tables provide information relating to the country of birth for the applications for British citizenship and those successful, for the last five years:

Applications received for British citizenship and successful applications by country of origin or birth 2006-10

	Applications received					
Country of origin or birth	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Aden	9	12	4	2	5	32
Afghanistan	5,321	9,259	4,950	4,151	4,894	28,575
Albania	777	871	1,142	1,255	1,300	5,345
Algeria	802	1,008	995	1,064	1,496	5,365
American Samoa	—	—	—	1	—	1
Andorra	1	—	—	1	—	2
Angola	726	893	1,105	716	617	4,057
Anguilla	26	14	9	4	8	61
Antigua and Barbuda	18	20	20	21	9	88
Argentina	135	120	158	201	158	772
Armenia	106	110	67	102	71	456
Aruba	—	2	—	2	—	4
Australia	2,840	2,277	2,029	2,188	2,196	11,530
Austria	27	28	32	28	33	148
Awaiting country to be added to list	—	—	1	—	—	1
Azerbaijan	159	188	181	144	131	803
Bahamas	17	13	21	18	22	91
Bahrain	79	59	67	127	87	419
Bangladesh	1,329	2,677	5,247	11,372	7,504	28,129
Barbados	136	107	105	86	60	494
Belarus	151	156	185	259	241	992
Belgium	66	61	37	42	71	277
Belize	17	16	15	14	11	73
Benin	16	16	19	13	25	89
Bermuda	2	3	1	2	3	11
Bhutan	25	25	32	25	20	127
Bolivia	46	73	90	87	61	357
Bosnia and Herzegovina	200	184	118	147	112	761
Botswana	25	39	41	68	72	245
Brazil	450	593	726	849	1,015	3,633
British Guiana	1	1	—	—	—	2
British Virgin Islands	15	11	12	1	5	44
Brunei	63	40	57	54	112	326
Bulgaria	490	952	939	1,744	1,761	5,886
Burkina Faso	5	4	10	6	16	41
Burma	15	17	14	22	11	79
Burundi	449	533	532	362	278	2,154
Byelorussian SSR	—	—	—	—	—	0
Cambodia	1	6	12	17	19	55
Cambodia (Kampuchea)	14	16	9	10	16	65
Cameroon	329	420	414	419	458	2,040
Canada	1,090	915	758	868	843	4,474
Cape Verde	3	4	3	4	6	20
Cayman Islands	32	23	14	11	12	92
Central African Republic	5	7	2	3	3	20
Ceylon	—	1	—	—	—	1
Chad	44	23	24	23	15	129
Chile	89	73	103	93	74	432
China	1,716	2,527	2,959	4,956	5,507	17,665
Colombia	804	1,436	1,148	887	841	5,116
Comoros	2	1	2	1	1	7
Congo	323	312	222	252	256	1,365
Congo (Brazzaville)	13	16	11	11	8	59

Applications received for British citizenship and successful applications by country of origin or birth 2006-10

Country of origin or birth	Applications received					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Cook Islands	1	—	1	1	—	3
Costa Rica	15	12	17	11	12	67
Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	247	346	333	335	400	1,661
Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	5	9	4	4	12	34
Croatia	296	287	168	187	135	1,073
Cuba	88	93	95	100	108	484
Cyprus	153	142	104	131	139	669
Czechoslovakia	2	5	1	5	7	20
Czech Republic	78	73	46	63	99	359
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	3	1	3	8	16	31
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,281	1,579	1,526	1,622	1,778	7,786
Denmark	32	34	31	21	45	163
Djibouti	9	12	14	12	22	69
Dominica	56	58	68	47	55	284
Dominican Republic	48	54	60	82	68	312
Dutch East Indies	—	—	1	—	—	1
East Timor	—	3	1	3	—	7
Ecuador	350	651	608	453	426	2,488
Egypt	618	552	516	751	917	3,354
El Salvador	9	8	20	13	12	62
Equatorial Guinea	4	3	10	4	4	25
Eritrea	460	564	559	568	816	2,967
Estonia	55	47	25	28	54	209
Ethiopia	798	974	780	738	832	4,122
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	4,620	1,650	108	37	16	6,431
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	—	—	—	1	—	1
Fiji	35	90	97	77	102	401
Finland	31	32	33	37	30	163
France	289	306	251	283	319	1,448
French Guiana	2	3	1	6	2	14
French Polynesia	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gabon	7	13	5	10	11	46
Gambia	253	365	369	504	503	1,994
Georgia	152	133	128	171	148	732
German Democratic Republic	2	1	1	1	—	5
Germany	374	413	377	406	446	2,016
Ghana	1,886	2,802	3,055	3,781	3,712	15,236
Gibraltar	17	21	17	16	15	86
Gilbert Islands	—	—	—	1	—	1
Goa	—	—	2	1	—	3
Greece	109	218	159	159	178	823
Greenland	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grenada	51	67	56	63	67	304
Guadeloupe	3	2	2	3	4	14
Guam	—	—	—	—	1	1
Guatemala	19	22	26	20	11	98
Guinea	34	75	88	95	97	389
Guinea-Bissau	5	10	11	20	21	67

Applications received for British citizenship and successful applications by country of origin or birth 2006-10

Country of origin or birth	Applications received					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Guyana	234	260	261	322	435	1,512
Haiti	11	6	8	7	1	33
Honduras	19	26	13	14	29	101
Hong Kong	485	656	743	1,922	2,287	6,093
Hungary	96	89	52	83	236	556
Iceland	2	5	1	11	7	26
India	9,423	12,726	13,594	22,023	25,334	83,100
Indonesia	136	166	136	192	186	816
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3,324	3,457	2,616	2,655	2,731	14,783
Iraq	5,217	5,068	9,158	4,592	4,854	28,889
Ireland	224	195	100	126	142	787
Israel	375	386	360	425	386	1,932
Israeli Occupied Territories	9	—	4	—	—	13
Italy	197	204	162	179	216	958
Jamaica	2,280	3,226	2,944	2,736	2,566	13,752
Japan	130	150	142	172	146	740
Jordan	265	128	126	180	140	839
Kazakhstan	112	108	128	122	133	603
Kenya	2,776	2,386	1,933	2,194	1,999	11,288
Kiribati	1	—	1	—	3	5
Korea	19	17	8	18	11	73
Kosovo	437	292	621	1,195	1,262	3,807
Kosovo	322	164	676	161	95	1,418
Kuwait	354	255	255	346	321	1,531
Kyrgyzstan	46	63	55	59	36	259
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6	7	10	17	14	54
Latvia	73	72	46	54	139	384
Lebanon	646	489	476	613	656	2,880
Lesotho	12	19	19	21	30	101
Liberia	176	182	178	160	178	874
Libya	90	61	44	41	36	272
Libya (Arab Republic)	202	286	270	374	308	1,440
Libyan Arab Republic	—	—	—	1	—	1
Liechtenstein	1	—	—	1	—	2
Lithuania	110	109	65	106	206	596
Luxembourg	2	5	3	5	3	18
Macao Special Administrative Region of China	11	21	8	10	9	59
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)	158	190	167	167	149	831
Madagascar	10	19	13	13	16	71
Malawi	162	231	203	247	300	1,143
Malaya	2	1	1	—	—	4
Malaysia	408	595	745	966	964	3,678
Maldives	1	3	2	8	4	18
Mali	9	5	7	8	12	41
Malta	44	23	19	16	26	128
Marshall Islands	—	—	1	—	—	1
Martinique	1	1	2	1	3	8
Mauritania	1	5	3	8	2	19
Mauritius	568	801	684	928	829	3,810
Mayotte	—	—	1	—	—	1
Mexico	131	119	146	225	228	849

Applications received for British citizenship and successful applications by country of origin or birth 2006-10

Country of origin or birth	Applications received					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Moldova, Republic of	96	104	114	127	141	582
Monaco	1	—	—	2	7	10
Mongolia	31	54	68	60	65	278
Montenegro	28	6	2	15	1	52
Montserrat	4	1	1	2	6	14
Morocco	426	539	608	640	733	2,946
Mozambique	49	70	80	84	71	354
Myanmar	139	162	167	199	222	889
Namibia	63	72	58	90	62	345
Nationality currently unknown	1	—	—	—	—	1
Nepal	825	863	975	1,424	2,294	6,381
Netherlands	71	102	66	75	100	414
Netherlands Antilles	2	2	1	3	1	9
New Caledonia	—	1	—	—	—	1
New Zealand	1,315	1,182	1,051	1,140	1,194	5,882
Nicaragua	12	5	13	13	12	55
Niger	6	5	3	8	6	28
Nigeria	4,272	5,077	4,887	5,742	6,896	26,874
Niue	—	—	—	1	—	1
Northern Mariana Islands	1	—	—	—	1	2
Northern Rhodesia	—	—	—	2	2	4
Norway	27	17	18	19	20	101
Nyasaland	1	1	—	—	1	3
Oman	32	26	48	75	84	265
Pakistan	6,401	9,296	11,953	18,184	20,834	66,668
Palestinian Authority	88	71	109	200	174	642
Panama	10	10	32	15	20	87
Panama Canal Zone	—	—	—	—	1	1
Papua New Guinea	20	22	15	19	21	97
Paraguay	9	2	7	11	7	36
Peru	137	177	201	198	230	943
Philippines	7,202	8,590	6,258	9,465	8,260	39,775
Poland	385	474	279	489	1,351	2,978
Portugal	128	98	92	115	104	537
Puerto Rico	—	1	4	7	3	15
Qatar	24	28	16	40	28	136
Republic of Montenegro	12	6	35	41	28	122
Republic of Serbia	187	358	396	349	285	1,575
Reunion	3	1	—	1	3	8
Rhodesia	32	29	28	27	15	131
Romania	3	4	6	783	786	1,582
Romania	510	461	403	112	123	1,609
Russian Federation	1,544	1,487	1,393	1,517	1,610	7,551
Rwanda	536	549	386	281	223	1,975
Samoa	3	3	2	4	5	17
Sao Tome and Principe	3	1	—	1	1	6
Saudi Arabia	511	426	398	731	832	2,898
Senegal	31	34	37	48	64	214

Applications received for British citizenship and successful applications by country of origin or birth 2006-10

Country of origin or birth	Applications received					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Serbia and Montenegro	140	150	5	4	5	304
Seychelles	58	60	56	70	45	289
Sierra Leone	1,359	1,701	1,220	945	901	6,126
Singapore	127	124	160	184	167	762
Slovakia	119	100	56	75	176	526
Slovenia	6	10	2	6	9	33
Solomon Islands	—	1	1	8	2	12
Somalia	8,179	6,429	7,430	6,301	5,327	33,666
South Africa	6,769	6,937	5,694	6,952	6,702	33,054
Southern Rhodesia	7	4	4	2	5	22
Southern Yemen	1	1	2	—	—	4
South Korea (Rep of Korea)	224	483	438	741	615	2,501
South West Africa	1	—	—	—	—	1
Soviet Union (USSR)	—	3	10	7	9	29
Spain	158	134	116	121	130	659
Sri Lanka	3,025	5,300	3,531	4,332	4,179	20,367
St Christopher and Nevis	—	1	1	—	—	2
St Helena	1	—	—	—	—	1
St Kitts and Nevis	47	24	18	22	12	123
St Lucia	66	129	144	110	144	593
St Vincent and the Grenadines	58	152	156	100	76	542
Sudan	780	665	659	882	812	3,798
Suriname	3	4	—	4	2	13
Swaziland	15	28	21	31	50	145
Sweden	43	68	56	57	69	293
Switzerland	130	89	84	102	74	479
Taiwan (Republic of China)	153	150	196	233	226	958
Tajikistan	12	8	12	16	22	70
Tanganyika and Zanzibar	4	5	3	4	4	20
Thailand	558	1,044	1,286	1,837	2,184	6,909
The Syrian Arab Republic	343	288	289	419	427	1,766
Tibet	4	1	3	15	4	27
Timor-Leste	—	—	—	1	—	1
Togo	85	95	63	93	65	401
Tonga	1	9	12	5	9	36
Trinidad and Tobago	414	427	443	549	488	2,321
Tunisia	119	158	173	201	206	857
Turkey	3,168	3,348	5,184	6,249	4,208	22,157
Turkish controlled area of Cyprus	—	—	—	1	—	1
Turkmenistan	11	23	28	27	34	123
Turks and Caicos Islands	—	—	—	—	1	1
Uganda	1,103	1,104	934	918	884	4,943
Ukraine	860	918	802	963	997	4,540
Union of Myanmar	—	—	—	—	2	2
United Arab Emirates	197	159	152	259	329	1,096
United Kingdom	18,298	14,129	13,331	18,625	21,881	86,264

Applications received for British citizenship and successful applications by country of origin or birth 2006-10

Country of origin or birth	Applications received					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
United Rep of Tanzania	581	574	481	497	476	2,609
United States of America	2,421	2,370	2,271	2,548	2,585	12,195
United States Virgin Islands	—	—	2	1	1	4
Unknown—officially designated	29	17	8	13	12	79
Uruguay	26	14	16	13	26	95
USSR	192	184	141	180	195	892
Uzbekistan	75	77	85	99	90	426
Vanuatu	—	1	—	—	1	2
Venezuela	96	149	157	200	194	796
Vietnam	212	313	389	436	493	1,843
Western Sahara	1	—	2	—	—	3
Yemen	559	405	424	689	582	2,659
Yemen Arab Republic	2	—	—	3	—	5
Yugoslavia	212	112	122	139	85	670
Zambia	453	632	559	766	798	3,208
Zimbabwe	3,037	5,755	6,569	6,987	5,905	28,253
	378	459	264	241	202	1,544
Total	140,925	157,112	156,104	193,979	199,826	847,946

Country of origin or birth	Successful (grants)[1]					
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Aden	8	10	4	—	2	24
Afghanistan	2,994	9,588	5,130	4,545	4,783	27,040
Albania	699	1,014	883	1,339	1,247	5,182
Algeria	894	1,045	853	1,199	1,332	5,323
American Samoa	—	—	—	1	—	1
Andorra	1	—	—	1	—	2
Angola	626	884	848	699	589	3,646
Anguilla	12	29	10	—	9	60
Antigua and Barbuda	14	21	16	21	11	83
Argentina	127	141	130	218	165	781
Armenia	82	126	65	88	82	443
Aruba	1	—	—	1	—	2
Australia	3,423	2,780	2,172	2,712	2,456	13,543
Austria	30	29	27	26	36	148
Awaiting country to be added to list	—	—	—	—	1	1
Azerbaijan	141	221	149	174	143	828
Bahamas	16	17	16	18	15	82
Bahrain	88	57	49	140	88	422
Bangladesh	3,724	2,223	3,693	12,003	7,783	29,426
Barbados	137	109	88	98	58	490
Belarus	165	181	150	290	230	1,016
Belgium	64	64	37	39	55	259
Belize	13	16	9	19	11	68
Benin	14	14	13	12	24	77
Bermuda	2	3	2	3	2	12
Bhutan	21	34	28	26	21	130
Bolivia	69	76	60	101	67	373
Bosnia and Herzegovina	228	205	99	156	107	795
Botswana	33	32	38	58	78	239
Brazil	548	621	596	928	999	3,692
British Guiana	1	1	1	—	—	3
British Virgin Islands	14	12	8	4	4	42
Brunei	58	37	53	61	93	302
Bulgaria	516	1,039	710	1,761	1,793	5,819
Burkina Faso	6	3	5	9	14	37
Burma	26	18	10	19	13	86
Burundi	337	581	455	360	289	2,022
Byelorussian SSR	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cambodia	—	5	9	16	20	50
Cambodia (Kampuchea)	15	26	8	10	14	73
Cameroon	324	429	331	430	440	1,954
Canada	1,586	1,264	978	1,176	996	6,000
Cape Verde	2	1	4	4	6	17
Cayman Islands	18	30	15	9	10	82
Central African Republic	5	3	4	3	3	18
Ceylon	—	1	—	—	—	1
Chad	42	27	20	23	13	125
Chile	103	86	92	98	75	454
China	2,143	2,953	2,333	5,178	5,472	18,079
Colombia	1,371	1,603	1,002	973	837	5,786
Comoros	1	2	2	1	1	7
Congo	384	330	192	219	255	1,380
Congo (Brazzaville)	11	16	9	8	12	56
Cook Islands	1	—	1	1	—	3
Costa Rica	17	13	12	17	11	70
Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	—	—	—	—	—	0
Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	264	334	282	345	400	1,625
Croatia	483	312	136	199	121	1,251
Cuba	107	107	85	104	108	511
Cyprus	395	159	95	129	132	910
Czechoslovakia	4	4	1	5	7	21
Czech Republic	88	73	46	55	83	345
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2	2	2	7	15	28
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,230	1,547	1,190	1,440	1,708	7,115
Denmark	22	36	24	29	38	149
Djibouti	12	13	9	15	19	68
Dominica	67	50	58	55	54	284
Dominican Republic	36	66	53	74	70	299
Dutch East Indies	—	—	1	—	—	1
East Timor	—	2	1	2	1	6
Ecuador	717	632	499	478	438	2,764
Egypt	539	646	432	834	883	3,334
El Salvador	12	8	14	16	12	62
Equatorial Guinea	2	5	10	4	4	25
Eritrea	450	599	428	545	817	2,839
Estonia	70	73	17	33	43	236
Ethiopia	732	1,012	651	765	821	3,981
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	5,166	2,404	268	52	22	7,912

Country of origin or birth	Successful (grants)[1] 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	—	—	—	—	—	0
Fiji	35	81	83	75	97	371
Finland	25	34	27	39	29	154
France	259	303	232	269	300	1,363
French Guiana	1	2	1	6	1	11
French Polynesia	—	—	—	—	—	0
Gabon	7	9	8	7	11	42
Gambia	243	328	315	495	488	1,869
Georgia	156	158	101	177	146	738
German Democratic Republic	2	1	—	1	—	4
Germany	370	428	329	436	412	1,975
Ghana	2,969	2,751	2,495	3,976	3,599	15,790
Gibraltar	15	21	18	15	19	88
Gilbert Islands	—	—	—	1	—	1
Goa	3	—	1	2	—	6
Greece	88	204	139	165	177	773
Greenland	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grenada	62	72	47	62	64	307
Guadeloupe	2	1	2	3	4	12
Guam	—	—	—	—	—	0
Guatemala	16	28	25	21	9	99
Guinea	26	72	71	86	100	355
Guinea-Bissau	9	10	6	24	14	63
Guyana	254	282	234	333	430	1,533
Haiti	9	7	7	8	1	32
Honduras	13	27	16	12	30	98
Hong Kong	1,128	1,353	1,266	2,204	2,205	8,156
Hungary	107	92	46	71	212	528
Iceland	2	7	—	12	5	26
India	14,285	13,353	10,828	23,002	25,350	86,818
Indonesia	178	169	119	194	192	852
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3,400	4,225	2,160	2,794	2,505	15,084
Iraq	3,733	5,029	8,456	5,166	4,182	26,566
Ireland	220	208	87	133	128	776
Israel	455	416	283	471	383	2,008
Israeli Occupied Territories	4	17	4	—	—	25
Italy	189	217	142	186	201	935
Jamaica	2,472	3,221	2,485	2,849	2,425	13,452
Japan	183	160	111	190	146	790
Jordan	256	196	111	184	151	898
Kazakhstan	117	129	102	150	128	626
Kenya	2,922	2,579	1,669	2,338	1,973	11,481
Kiribati	1	—	1	1	1	4
Korea	24	20	6	20	9	79
Kosovo	38	27	244	1,039	1,287	2,635
Kosovo	307	111	630	211	113	1,372
Kuwait	320	303	212	381	309	1,525
Kyrgyzstan	44	67	51	67	39	268
Lao People's Democratic Republic	10	8	8	17	12	55
Latvia	79	92	38	56	118	383
Lebanon	571	736	375	663	607	2,952
Lesotho	11	17	16	19	30	93
Liberia	134	191	158	157	163	803

Country of origin or birth	Successful (grants)[1] 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Libya	123	75	47	53	32	330
Libya (Arab Republic)	272	264	268	413	272	1,489
Libyan Arab Republic	—	—	—	1	—	1
Liechtenstein	—	1	—	1	—	2
Lithuania	129	123	43	87	176	558
Luxembourg	3	4	3	3	5	18
Macao Special Administrative Region of China	11	19	10	9	10	59
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)	129	196	130	188	141	784
Madagascar	9	17	13	12	19	70
Malawi	195	209	176	257	289	1,126
Malaya	2	1	—	2	—	5
Malaysia	709	690	663	1,120	1,049	4,231
Maldives	4	2	1	7	5	19
Mali	6	6	3	7	14	36
Malta	47	25	17	15	29	133
Marshall Islands	—	—	—	1	—	1
Martinique	2	—	3	1	3	9
Mauritania	1	5	3	7	1	17
Mauritius	576	835	585	973	810	3,779
Mayotte	2	—	1	—	—	3
Mexico	138	135	116	239	220	848
Moldova, Republic of	86	137	93	134	143	593
Monaco	—	1	—	2	7	10
Mongolia	41	61	59	63	63	287
Montenegro	29	10	2	9	6	56
Montserrat	4	1	1	1	6	13
Morocco	501	532	523	758	708	3,022
Mozambique	79	65	56	91	70	361
Myanmar	156	171	134	219	221	901
Namibia	63	78	38	99	68	346
Nationality currently unknown	—	2	—	—	—	2
Nepal	826	932	906	2,021	2,259	6,944
Netherlands	65	98	47	79	86	375
Netherlands Antilles	4	3	1	3	—	11
New Caledonia	—	—	1	—	—	1
New Zealand	1,706	1,413	1,121	1,408	1,389	7,037
Nicaragua	8	10	12	13	11	54
Niger	6	4	1	9	7	27
Nigeria	5,149	5,096	3,876	5,956	6,462	26,539
Niue	—	—	—	1	—	1
Northern Mariana Islands	—	1	—	—	1	2
Northern Rhodesia	2	—	—	1	2	5
Norway	24	24	13	12	17	90
Nyasaland	2	1	—	—	1	4
Oman	34	24	31	86	85	260
Pakistan	9,541	7,539	8,893	19,464	20,364	65,801
Palestinian Authority	80	97	73	192	193	635
Panama	15	7	26	23	13	84

Country of origin or birth	Successful (grants)[1] 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Panama Canal Zone	—	—	—	—	1	1
Papua New Guinea	24	28	10	24	22	108
Paraguay	8	4	7	11	8	38
Peru	131	213	167	222	217	950
Philippines	7,786	9,606	4,792	10,383	8,413	40,980
Poland	467	463	220	371	1,172	2,693
Portugal	111	90	71	110	109	491
Puerto Rico	—	1	3	5	6	15
Qatar	24	27	17	43	31	142
Republic of Montenegro	1	4	28	36	31	100
Republic of Serbia	162	257	357	376	282	1,434
Reunion	1	2	—	1	2	6
Rhodesia	41	30	24	32	16	143
Romania	—	1	1	664	742	1,408
Romania	544	484	339	197	124	1,688
Russian Federation	1,725	1,700	1,234	1,797	1,576	8,032
Rwanda	411	581	313	296	228	1,829
Samoa	—	5	1	5	5	16
Sao Tome and Principe	3	1	—	1	1	6
Saudi Arabia	416	504	306	768	829	2,823
Senegal	24	34	28	51	55	192
Serbia and Montenegro	247	174	15	4	5	445
Seychelles	56	62	50	73	49	290
Sierra Leone	1,296	1,804	1,030	960	872	5,962
Singapore	155	163	150	216	186	870
Slovakia	136	114	49	53	155	507
Slovenia	8	11	4	4	10	37
Solomon Islands	1	1	1	9	2	14
Somalia	7,584	6,416	6,447	7,336	5,271	33,054
South Africa	6,986	7,430	4,757	7,611	6,630	33,414
Southern Rhodesia	9	4	3	3	5	24
Southern Yemen	3	2	2	—	—	7
South Korea (Rep of Korea)	247	488	365	769	658	2,527
South West Africa	1	—	—	—	—	1
Soviet Union (USSR)	—	3	8	9	7	27
Spain	148	137	106	120	135	646
Sri Lanka	4,607	6,030	2,992	4,196	4,199	22,024
St Christopher and Nevis	—	1	1	—	—	2
St Helena	—	1	—	—	—	1
St Kitts and Nevis	39	29	18	29	17	132
St Lucia	72	123	121	120	129	565
St Vincent and the Grenadines	52	120	151	116	78	517
Sudan	806	650	521	862	792	3,631
Suriname	1	4	—	4	2	11
Swaziland	10	30	16	30	50	136
Sweden	37	60	52	50	72	271
Switzerland	129	97	69	100	74	469
Taiwan (Republic of China)	175	176	164	269	214	998
Tajikistan	14	10	12	15	24	75
Tanganyika and Zanzibar	3	6	3	6	1	19
Thailand	822	991	1,056	1,955	2,162	6,986
The Syrian Arab Republic	325	324	251	457	401	1,758
Tibet	6	2	3	14	5	30
Timor-Leste	—	—	—	1	—	1
Togo	99	87	49	91	75	401
Tonga	2	10	8	8	9	37
Trinidad and Tobago	469	453	362	604	490	2,378
Tunisia	117	173	138	233	196	857
Turkey	4,719	4,177	4,191	6,613	4,249	23,949
Turkish controlled area of Cyprus	—	—	—	1	—	1
Turkmenistan	10	27	24	30	37	128
Turks and Caicos Islands	—	—	—	—	1	1
Uganda	1,070	1,128	815	917	839	4,769
Ukraine	810	1,150	655	1,060	988	4,663
Union of Myanmar	—	—	—	—	2	2
United Arab Emirates	180	166	131	262	339	1,078
United Kingdom	20,580	16,353	12,363	19,323	21,869	90,488
United Rep of Tanzania	736	577	399	525	446	2,683
United States of America	2,854	2,535	1,975	2,736	2,562	12,662
United States Virgin Islands	—	—	—	1	1	2
Unknown—officially designated	20	8	5	3	11	47
Uruguay	24	19	13	15	27	98
USSR	195	243	101	226	177	942
Uzbekistan	75	87	67	112	95	436
Vanuatu	—	1	—	—	2	3
Venezuela	112	163	118	219	197	809
Vietnam	184	304	282	453	439	1,662
Western Sahara	1	—	2	—	—	3
Yemen	568	455	354	690	583	2,650
Yemen Arab Republic	2	—	—	3	—	5
Yugoslavia	280	128	94	156	79	737
Zambia	459	623	487	777	792	3,138
Zimbabwe	2,593	5,521	5,536	7,269	5,809	26,728
	373	630	308	246	209	1,766
Total	160,473	167,296	132,287	206,667	197,221	863,944

[1] The successful (grants) figures do not relate to the applications received figures in the same time period.

Source:

Local management information provided by UK Border Agency, North West Region Planning and MI Team and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Departmental Manpower

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency are based at each office location *(a)* in Scotland, *(b)* in each of the English regions, *(c)* in Wales, *(d)* in Northern Ireland and *(e)* overseas; and what the functions are of each office. [80546]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is divided into regions and units that are based on UK-wide functions. Staff in functional areas work in offices located across the nations and regions of the UK as well as overseas, as set out in the following table:

	Full-time equivalent staff
Border Force	
Functions are: Passport control, freight and people searching at ports, airports and international rail terminals, Olympics programme, Electronic border management.	
North region (including Scotland and Northern Ireland)	1018
Heathrow	1585
South and Europe	2690
English central region	2314
Immigration Group	
Functions are: In-country immigration control, internal applications and citizenship, work permits, points based system, immigration enforcement, removals and asylum processes.	
Scotland and Northern Ireland	282
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	1826
North West	1558
Midlands	652
South West and Wales	296
London and the South East	3662
Criminality and Detention Group	
Functions are: Detention, FNP removals, criminal casework and criminal investigations.	
Scotland	19
London and the South East	1338
East of England	22
North West	217
North East	131
South West	13
Midlands	47
International Group	
Functions are: overseas immigration control, visa issuing processes, risk and airline liaison officers.	
Overseas	1709
London and the South East	339
Other functions	
Resource Management Group manages the UK Border Agency infrastructure and IT provision; management information and commercial and procurement activities. Human Resources; industrial relations, reward, professional standards, staff development, building security, customer strategy, complaints and correspondence Intelligence; Intelligence operating model and system, special cases Communications; communications online customer services, compliance promotion, staff engagement and shared services to Home Office. Chief Executive's Office and Strategy.	
London and the South East	1498
North West	130
Wales	9
Scotland	10
North East	77
Midlands	18
Some of these Groups also have small numbers of staff in other regions that are not shown separately for data protection and security reasons	Less than 20

Detention Centres

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which contractors provide security for the UK Border Agency's pre-departure accommodation locations. [82049]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency pre-departure accommodation is currently available at one site, namely Cedars at Pease Pottage near Crawley in West Sussex. The service provider for Cedars is G4S Care and Justice Services (UK) Ltd.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average individuals spend at UK Border Agency pre-departure accommodation prior to their removal. [82050]

Damian Green: Under the new family returns process, families have been accommodated initially at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre and since 17 August 2011 at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The average length of time spent in pre-departure accommodation is not calculated as averages are subject to distortions by a small number of cases with large values. Data ranges are used instead as these give a more balanced view.

Published statistics on people detained in the pre-departure accommodation at Cedars by length of detention during the third quarter of 2011 will be published on 24 November 2011 in the "Immigration Statistics: July to September 2011 release"; a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House. The release is also available from the Home Office Science Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

One family was accommodated at Tinsley House in its capacity as a pre-departure accommodation. The length of stay was 3.16 days, or 75 hours and 45 minutes. This figure is based on management information, and does not form part of our publicised statistics.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period that an individual spent in pre-departure accommodation prior to removal has been since May 2010. [82051]

Damian Green: Pre-departure accommodation came into effect on 1 March 2011 as part of the new family returns process. Under this process families have been accommodated initially at Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) and since its opening on 17 August 2011, solely at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The longest period that an individual was accommodated under the family returns process was at Tinsley House IRC. The length of stay was 3.16 days, or 75 hours and 45 minutes. This figure is based on management information, and does not form part of our publicised statistics.

Published statistics on people detained in pre-departure accommodation at Cedars by length of detention during the third quarter of 2011 will be published on 24 November 2011 in the "Immigration Statistics: July to September 2011 release", a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House. The release is also available from the Home Office Science Research and Statistics webpages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Detention Centres: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether removals of children enforced in Scotland are made directly from a Scottish departure port or via a UK Border Agency facility elsewhere in the UK. [82046]

Damian Green: Removals will be through a Scottish point of departure where suitable flights are available. Where there are no suitable flights from Scotland, removal will occur through one of the larger UK airports.

Scottish airports may be used to move a family to another airport in the UK prior to removal or to pre-departure accommodation.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Independent Family Returns Panel has made any recommendations to *(a)* the UK Border Agency or *(b)* her Department that a family should not be detained. [82052]

Damian Green: The Independent Family Returns Panel was established in March 2011 as part of the new process for managing family returns. It advises the UK Border Agency on the method of removal from the UK of individual families when an ensured return is necessary.

The UK Border Agency no longer detains families in immigration removal centres as part of ensured returns (other than, exceptionally, for high-risk or criminal cases). Since August, the options for ensured return include (but are not limited to) holding families for a short period in pre-departure accommodation, known as Cedars.

Plans are drawn up by the UK Border Agency and referred to the panel. After discussion with the UK Border Agency, the panel advises on whether the plan (including any proposal to use Cedars) represents an appropriate method of return which takes sufficient account of the safeguarding and welfare needs of the children. The panel may advise that the plan be amended and there is a presumption that this advice will be accepted.

If, exceptionally, the UK Border Agency does not accept the panel's advice, the case will be referred to me, as the Minister for Immigration, for a decision. The panel will include in its annual report any instances where its advice is not accepted. To date, there have been no instances where the UK Border Agency has not accepted the panel's advice, so no referrals to me have been made.

The UK Border Agency retains the ability to detain families at the border while enquiries are made and/or pending a return flight. The panel considers the overall handling of this process to assess whether detention is being kept to a minimum, but it does not advise on individual cases.

Detention Centres: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mode of transport individuals detained prior to removal are transported from locations in Scotland to UK Border Agency facilities or departure ports in other parts of the UK. [82047]

Damian Green: Detainees are normally moved by road in escorting vehicles. All the vehicles used by the UK Border Agency's escorting contractor must provide appropriate security while ensuring the welfare of detainees is maintained. This includes making every effort to minimise the amount of time they spend in vehicles. Detainees may occasionally be transferred from Scotland to departure ports in other parts of the UK by domestic flight.

Detention Orders: Females

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of women leaving prison and issued with an IS91 Detention Order were *(a)* deported from and *(b)* permitted to stay in the UK in each of the last five years; and what the (i) average and (ii) longest length of time spent in detention under an IS91 Order was for each group in each year; [81280]

(2) how many female prisoners were issued with an IS91 Detention Order within *(a)* one month, *(b)* two weeks, *(c)* one week and *(d)* 24 hours of their release date from HM Prison Service in the latest period for which figures are available. [81281]

Damian Green: The following table sets out the number and proportion of women leaving prison and issued with an IS91, who were removed from the UK or who were allowed to remain. The table also provides information on the time spent in detention. Please note that data prior to 2009 are not available.

	2009	*2010*	*2011*[1]
Total number of women issued with an IS91	4204	3703	3130
Number of women issued with an IS91 who meet the criteria for deportation	509	349	300
Of those:			
Removed			
Number	233	152	166
Percentage	46	44	55
Allowed to remain:			
Number	18	21	17
Percentage	4	6	6

	2009	2010	2011[1]
Cases ongoing:			
Number	255	176	117
Percentage	50	50	39
Of those removed from the UK:			
Average length of time in detention (days)	63	56	52
Longest length of time in detention (days)	723	876	146
Of those allowed to remain in the UK:			
Average length of time in detention (days)	121	100	51
Longest length of time in detention (days)	349	344	154

[1] YTD—January to October 2011

Establishing the time period within the release date from HMP Prison Service in which a female was issued with an IS91 would require the analysis of a large volume of electronic records, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Dogs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sniffer dogs have been used by UK Border Agency staff in searching for heroin and cocaine at UK borders in each of the last three years. [82258]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) currently has 56 dogs trained to detect drugs, including heroin and cocaine. We also have a further three drugs dogs in training, totalling 59 dogs. The number of drugs detector dogs fluctuates throughout each year due to things such as ill health or other forced retirements. The current number of dogs in operation is representative of the number of dogs UKBA has had available at any one time over the last three years.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 648-9W, on entry clearances, what guidance she has issued to specialist colleges on the differing levels of fees required for accreditation required by the UK Border Agency. [81857]

Damian Green: We have brought in new requirements for sponsors to apply for an educational oversight inspection to one of the public review bodies. The fees are determined by the bodies themselves and are broadly set at a level to cover their costs. These bodies are providing guidance to colleges on the inspection process and the level of fee required.

Gurkhas

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* former Gurkhas and *(b)* dependents of former Gurkhas have been allowed to enter and reside in the UK since May 2009. [82065]

Damian Green: The total number of visas issued to former Gurkhas and their dependants to enter the UK since 2009 is 9,965.

Applicant types	2009	2010	[1]2011
Former Gurkha	1,628	1,116	358
Dependants of former Gurkhas	1,939	3,744	1,180

[1] January to June 2011.

Note:

These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Human Trafficking: Telephone Services

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 54W, on human trafficking, what costs were associated with the operation of the Metropolitan Police's trafficking victim helpline in *(a)* October 2011 and *(b)* each financial year since it was created. [81845]

Damian Green: The Metropolitan Police Service's trafficking free phone line cost £128.40 to install and has been operational since April 2011. The first-year costs are currently calculated at £189 or £15.75 per month. Staff costs are nominal. Approximately 40 calls have been received on the line since April, of which five have been confirmed as victims of trafficking and referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Immigrants: Detainees

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many no-notice removals of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants were undertaken by the UK Border Agency in each of the last 12 months. [82094]

Damian Green: Individuals are given at least 72 hours notice of the time and date on which they will be removed from the United Kingdom except in port cases where removal can take place on the same day as arrival. Detailed guidance on removal notice periods is in chapter 60 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance and can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement

The number of same day port removals undertaken in each of the last 12 months could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. The total number of quarterly port removals, however, is published within the Before Entry tables as part of the Immigration Statistics release which is available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office website. The Before Entry tables for April 2011 to June 2011 can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q2-2011v2/before-entry-q2-11-tabs

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in detention on immigration-related grounds have been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK. [82107]

Damian Green: In 2010, for an average month, there were approximately 635 foreign national offenders detained in prison beyond the end of their sentence while deportation was considered. In addition, for an average month, there were approximately 1,135 foreign national offenders detained in immigration removal centres.

Immigration

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of non-UK EU nationals who reside in the UK. [73713]

Damian Green: The subject raised in my hon. Friend's question is a matter for the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question to Secretary of State for the Home Department, asking what recent estimate she has made of the number of non-UK EU nationals who reside in the UK. [73713]

The most recent estimate of the number of non-UK EU nationals who reside in the UK is 2,003,000 with a margin of error of +/- 61,000. This estimate, along with other published Population by Country of Birth and Nationality estimates, is based on the Annual Population Survey and relates to the 12 month period of January to December 2010. These can be found on the ONS website, table 2.1 & 2.2 at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-222711

The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample.

Members: Correspondence

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Rotherham of 21 August 2011 about Sergei Magnitsky. [76806]

Damian Green: A reply to the right hon. Member's letter was sent on 15 November 2011.

Police: Manpower

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* in each age group, *(b)* of each sex and *(c)* of each ethnicity were recruited to each police force in each of the last 10 years. [81548]

Nick Herbert: Age is collected separately to ethnicity and gender. The available information placed in the House Library, shows the number of police officers that were employed within each age group in each police force in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2010-11 (headcount). The available information also shows the number of police officers within each police force by ethnicity and gender, 2002-03 to 2010-11 (full-time equivalents). These figures were not collected by the Home Office prior to 2002-03.

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed in each age group in each police force in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [82255]

Nick Herbert: The available information, placed in the House Library, shows the number of police officers that were employed in each age group in each police force area in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2010-11 (headcount). These figures were not collected by the Home Office prior to 2002-03.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 71304 on Humberside Police and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council tabled on 7 September 2011 for answer on 14 September 2011. [74722]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 650W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the report of the International Atomic Energy Authority on Iran's development of nuclear missiles. [82067]

Alistair Burt: The UK fully supports the work of the director general and of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in producing this important report. They have handled a very sensitive issue with care and rigour, and have worked diligently to verify and validate the information that the report draws on. In response to the report, the IAEA Board of Governors passed a resolution expressing its

"deep and increasing concern about the unresolved issues regarding the Iranian nuclear program"

These are concerns we share.

The report itself clearly indicates that Iran has failed to address the IAEA's "serious concerns" about the "credible" information available to it that

"indicates that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device".

It also presents evidence that provides a compelling picture of Iranian work on nuclear weapons technologies—not only up to 2003, but also beyond—and work on the continuation and expansion of its uranium enrichment programme, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. Finally, the report clearly documents Iran's repeated failures to co-operate with the agency. Iran must cease its attempts to deflect the legitimate concerns of the international community and co-operate with the agency, fully and without delay, to resolve them.

Jordan: Foreign Policy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the aims and objectives are of UK policy towards Jordan. [81915]

Alistair Burt: The UK's policy towards Jordan reflects the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's priorities of Safeguarding Britain's national security, building Britain's prosperity and supporting British nationals around the world.

The Arab Spring has shown that increased political participation by citizens and greater economic opportunity offering them a greater stake in their state is the surest route to long-term regional stability. To this end the UK continues to support the implementation of political and economic reforms in Jordan, including through the Arab Partnership. Additionally the UK works closely with Jordan on issues of mutual interest, including regional foreign policy, counter-terrorism and defence.

In support of building Britain's prosperity, on 15 November the Prime Minister and King Abdullah agreed to launch a UK-Jordan Economic Dialogue, which will seek ways to support both the Jordanian economy and the UK's prosperity agenda.

Lebanon: Foreign Policy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the aims and objectives are of UK policy towards Lebanon. [81914]

Alistair Burt: The UK's policy towards Lebanon reflects the FCO's priorities of Safeguarding Britain's national security, building Britain's prosperity and supporting British nationals around the world.

Working to reduce conflict, the UK's aim is to support a stable, independent and sovereign Lebanon. To this end we have increased our assistance to the Lebanese army and police, as key institutions supporting Lebanese stability.

The UK continues to believe the best way to achieve peace and stability in Lebanon and the wider region is through the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1701, including respect of Lebanese sovereignty by other countries in the region. The UK also fully supports the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in its work to end impunity for political assassinations in Lebanon. It is important Lebanon fulfils its obligations to the Tribunal by paying its portion of the approved budget as the Prime Minister emphasised during his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Miqati on 7 November.

Lebanon remains a business hub for the region and a strong consumer economy, with UK exports at £398.7 million for 2010, on a par with those to Kuwait, and significantly higher than Jordan. We continue to explore the potential for UK companies to play a greater role in Lebanon's ambitious plans to boost their infrastructure sector.

We continue to ensure that embassy has plans to support for British nationals in Lebanon in place. These plans are well exercised and have the confidence of British citizens in Lebanon as well as Ministers in the UK.

Libya: Foreign Relations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Abdel Rahim El-Keib; and what assistance he has offered to the National Transitional Council since his election. [81983]

Alistair Burt: The Prime Minister spoke to his Libyan counterpart, Abdurrahim al-Kib, on 5 November. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), spoke to Mr al-Kib on 17 November. These discussions touched on a number of issues, including the security situation in Libya, medical treatment for injured Libyans, unfreezing of assets, preparing for elections, human rights and making progress on crimes committed by the former regime, including the police investigations into the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, Lockerbie and Gaddafi's support to the IRA. The UK has been providing considerable assistance in stabilisation to the new Libyan authorities, and in the security sector since Mr al-Kib's appointment.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Reform

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to bring forward proposals on *(a)* funding for 200 all-postal primaries, *(b)* the recall of hon. Members and *(c)* prevention of the misuse of Parliamentary privilege. [81991]

Mr Harper: The Coalition programme for government says that all-postal primaries will be "targeted at seats which have not changed hands for many years". The boundary changes legislated for earlier in the year will have implications for almost all existing constituencies and we will need to take this into account when considering how to take forward this policy. In relation to the right to recall MPs, we will announce the details of our proposals before the Christmas recess. On parliamentary privilege, the Leader of the House of Commons, my right hon. Friend the Member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young), plans to update the House on the preparations for a draft Bill on parliamentary privilege before the Christmas recess.

WALES

Enterprise Zones

12. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues and Ministers in the Welsh Government on cross-border economic implications of the development of enterprise zones. [81791]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and with the First Minister on various issues, including enterprise zones in Wales. It is vital that businesses investing in Wales are given the same or even better competitive advantages as businesses in places just across the border such as Bristol and Merseyside.

Exports

14. **Jonathan Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the First Minister on Welsh exports to non-EU countries. [81793]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues including Welsh exports.

I am very pleased that recent figures showed an increase in Welsh exports to non-EU countries of 44.5%. This is excellent news and testament to the hard work of businesses across Wales.

Economic Growth

15. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment she has made of the state of the Welsh economy; and if she will make a statement. [81794]

Mr David Jones: The economy across the UK is starting to return to growth, despite recent disappointing unemployment figures in Wales.

We have had to make difficult decisions in order to reduce the massive deficit that we inherited but our deficit reduction plan has proved the right course of action with the UK's AAA rating recently being reaffirmed.

Press Releases

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press releases her Department has issued since May 2010; and how many of these were bilingual. [67787]

Mr David Jones: Between May 2010 and 10 November 2011 the Wales Office has issued 277 press releases and of these, 250 are bilingual. The remaining 27 are awaiting translation.

SCOTLAND

Foreign Visits

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland in how many international visits *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and *(c)* senior staff in his Department have participated in 2010-11; what the (i) cost and (ii) purpose was of each visit; how many international visits are planned to (A) the Americas, (B) the Middle East and (C) Western Europe; and what estimate he has made of the cost of planned future international visits. [82189]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I have undertaken one international visit each in 2010-11 with one further trip planned by the Secretary of State to Brazil at the end of this month. Information requested is detailed in the following table:

Trip	Minister and Group	Purpose	Total cost (£)
USA and Canada 3-9 April 2011	David Mundell	Attend Tartan week events and promote Scottish businesses.	2,685.71
Brussels 14-15 June 2011	Michael Moore (plus two)	Meetings with European Commission, MEPs and businesses.	841.19
Brazil (Planned) 26 November-1 December 2011	Michael Moore (plus two)	Lead Scottish trade delegation, meeting businesses, Brazilian Government and others.	[1]—

1 Costs being finalised.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on proposed closures of Jobcentre Plus offices in Scotland. [81414]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I are in contact with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), on a range of issues relating to the Government's welfare reform agenda, which includes ensuring that Jobcentre Plus continues to meet local needs while delivering value for money to the taxpayer.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Emissions

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on steps to reduce carbon emissions attributable to aviation. [R] [79785]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* We support the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading System from next year and we will continue to work to secure global solutions on aviation emissions. This approach provides an important way to ensure that the aviation sector takes strong, cost-effective action to address its climate change impacts while avoiding competitive disadvantage to the UK.

In August the Government published its response to the Committee on Climate Change report on reducing CO_2 emissions from UK aviation. This included an assessment of the potential of a number of possible policy options to reduce aviation CO_2 emissions, along with an estimate of their costs, out to 2050. This and other evidence gathered in response to our scoping document on developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation will inform the draft framework which we intend to publish for consultation in March 2012.

Domestic Aviation

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the number of people who have flown from *(a)* Aberdeen and *(b)* Edinburgh to overseas destinations via Heathrow airport in each of the last three years. [81204]

Mrs Villiers: In 2009 it is estimated that approximately 150,000 people flew from Aberdeen to an overseas destination via Heathrow and 340,000 flew to an overseas destination from Edinburgh via Heathrow. A similar number would have made the same journey in the other direction, flying from an overseas destination to Aberdeen or Edinburgh via Heathrow. Reliable estimates are not available for 2008 or 2010.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have flown between Heathrow airport and *(a)* Edinburgh and *(b)* Aberdeen in each of the last three years. [81205]

Mrs Villiers: The figures requested are given in the following table:

Number of passengers flying between Heathrow and Edinburgh or Aberdeen airport, 2008-10

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Heathrow to Edinburgh	1,319,000	1,306,000	1,245,000
Heathrow to Aberdeen	656,000	641,000	618,000

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had on the effect on passengers of the sale of BMI; [80519]

(2) whether she has discussed with *(a)* BMI and *(b)* British Airways the future provision of flights between Edinburgh and London Heathrow. [80521]

Mrs Villiers: The possible sale of BMI is a commercial matter for discussion between BMI's owner Lufthansa and prospective purchasers. The Secretary of State for Transport received a factual briefing from British Airways following that airline's public announcement of its interest in purchasing BMI. Decisions about which air services operate from which UK airports are a commercial matter for airlines.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants her Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79074]

Norman Baker: The Department does not hold information on which of its suppliers are charitable organisations. I therefore regret that information on the amounts of grant paid to charitable organisations is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Consultants

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which consultants and advisers her Department has employed in respect of the *(a)* Thameslink programme, *(b)* Thameslink rolling stock procurement and *(c)* Intercity Express programme; how much she has budgeted in respect of each such contractor; and how much each contractor has invoiced to date. [76031][1]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* The information requested can be found as follows.

Thameslink Rolling Stock Project

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Arup	4.0	1.7	0.5
Freshfields	6.6	1.9	1.3
PWC	2.5	0.9	0.6
Interfleet	1.5	0.1	0
Booz	0.5	0.3	0.1
Total	15.1	4.9	2.5

Thameslink Programme

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Atkins	0.5	0.1	0.1
EC Harris	0.2	0.1	0.25
SDG	0	0.1	0.03
Nichols	1.4	0.3	0.04
Bovis Lend Lease Consulting	0.7	0.4	0.09
Eversheds	0.07	0.01	0
Willis	0.036	0.004	0.01
Total	2.906	1.014	0.52

IEP Programme

£ million

	Costs incurred to May 2010	*Cost incurred June 2010 to September 2011*	*October 2011 to March 2012 forecast*
Barkers HR Advertising	0.016	0	0
Capita Resourcing	0.3	0.008	0
Clifford Chance	0.002	0	0
Congress Centre	0.012	0	0
Ernst and Young	0.2	0	0
First Class Partnership	0.006	0	0
Freshfields	5.6	1.0	1.1
Jim Standen Associates	0.01	0	0
Manpower	0	0.13	0.25
Mott MacDonald	11.8	0.48	0.70
MWB Business Exchange	0.002	0	0
Nichols	3.1	0.09	0.02
PWC	2.5	0.16	0.8
QCs	0	0.01	0.01
Reed Employment	0.06	0.03	0
SDG	1.2	0.13	0
Willis	0.01	0.005	0.009
Total	24.81	2.04	2.88

Detailed spending plans for years beyond the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been agreed.

1. *[Official Report, 23 January 2012, Vol. 539, c. 1-4MC.]*

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a list of all reports that consultants working for her Department have written in respect of *(a)* the Intercity Express Programme, *(b)* Thameslink rolling stock procurement and *(c)* Crossrail. [76496]

Mrs Villiers: The Department operates a policy of openness and transparency. Consequently, relevant information relating to *(a)* the Intercity Express Programme, *(b)* Thameslink rolling stock procurement and *(c)* Crossrail is available on the Department's or Crossrail Ltd's websites, the links to which are provided as follows. The Department and Crossrail Ltd will continue to publish relevant documentation on their respective websites as the projects develop over time.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/crossrail

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/iep

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/thameslink

http://www.crossrail.co.uk

East Coast Railway Line: Disability

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to fully implement the Persons with Reduced Mobility Technical Specifications for Interoperability requirements on rolling stock used by the East Coast rail franchise. [81926]

Norman Baker: It will be the responsibility of the operator at the relevant date to ensure that all rolling stock in use on the East Coast franchise is accessible by the legal deadline of 1 January 2020.

Refurbishment of the current rolling stock has seen the fitment of priority seating, wheelchair spaces and accessible toilets. Installation of audio/visual passenger information systems is the main area outstanding. The Intercity Express Programme fleet that is to be built for this route will be constructed to modern access standards.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which her Department has responsibility made use of the Government Procurement Card in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [73489]

Norman Baker: The information is as follows.

Department for Transport Agencies and NDPBs using GPC

Agency/ALB	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
DSA	Yes	Yes	Yes
HA	Yes	Yes	Yes
MCA	Yes	Yes	Yes
GCDA	Yes	Yes	Yes
VOSA	Yes	Yes	Yes
VCA	Yes	Yes	Yes
DVLA	Yes	Yes	Yes
British Transport Police	Yes	Yes	Yes
Passenger Focus	Yes	Yes	Yes
Directly Operated Railways	n/a	n/a	No
Northern Lighthouse Board	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trinity House Lighthouse Service	No	No	No
HS2	n/a	n/a	No

n/a = Did not exist for the year in question

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department plans to take in respect of the cost of motor insurance for young drivers; and when she expects to implement such plans. [79628]

Mike Penning: I met a range of stakeholders including the Association of British Insurers and the driver training industry in June to consider how young people can best acquire the skills and behaviours needed to be safe and responsible drivers and therefore reduce their risk to insurers. Officials continue to work with them and the insurance industry to evidence a wide range of proposals for my consideration, ahead of formal consultation around spring 2012.

The Government have already taken other steps to help manage rising insurance costs. These include the introduction of the continuous insurance enforcement scheme to tackle uninsured driving, plans to allow insurers access to the DVLA driver database to check motoring convictions to reduce fraud, and measures to tackle legal costs through abolishing the recoverability of Conditional Fee Agreements' success fees and after the event insurance, and banning referral fees.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration is of each private finance initiative contract managed by her Department. [82210]

Norman Baker: Department for Transport PFI project details are incorporated into the HM Treasury Signed Deals List and published at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

The Treasury website itemisation includes details of project: capital values, date of financial close, operational period of the contract and the annual unitary charge details indicates the year each contract became operational.

The following projects have been awarded since the HM Treasury Signed Deals List was last updated:

Project	*Commencement date*	*Duration (years)*	*Cost (£ million)*
Cambridgeshire street lighting	July 2011	25	234.5
Croydon and Lewisham street lighting	July 2011	25	335.0
Knowsley street lighting	July 2011	25	166.6

Project	Commencement date	Duration (years)	Cost (£ million)
Nottingham street lighting	September 2010	25	235.8
Northamptonshire street lighting	November 2011	25	333.5
Oldham street lighting	July 2011	25	154.6
Rochdale street lighting	July 2011	25	153.3

Public Transport: Finance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of her Department's spending reduction for public transport on people with a low income. [78940]

Norman Baker: Buses are most heavily used by people on the lowest incomes. No cuts were made this year to the subsidy paid to bus operators and the Government believe the 20% cut from April 2012 is manageable given the reductions to budgets elsewhere. The Government have made a commitment to providing free local bus travel for older and disabled people to ensure that no one who is older or disabled in England need be prevented from bus travel by cost alone. 40% of concessionary journeys are made by people with a household income of less than £10,000.

While there is no statutory obligation to carry out a formal assessment of the impact of spending decisions on people on low incomes, Ministers carefully considered this during the spending review process.

Railway Stations: Tees Valley

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are any plans to close railway ticket offices in Teesside. [80766]

Mrs Villiers: An independent study by Sir Roy McNulty on the value for money of the railways recommended closure of ticket offices at category E stations.

The aim of the study was to examine the overall cost structure of all elements of the rail sector to identify the options for improving value for money to both passengers and taxpayers, while continuing to expand capacity and drive up passenger satisfaction with the railway.

Government are currently considering the findings of this independent report, but no decisions have yet been made.

Railway Stations: Standards

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has considered giving greater powers to rail companies in taking ownership of the upkeep of rail stations for the purposes of ensuring they are maintained to a high standard. [81035]

Mrs Villiers: A package of measures has been developed with the rail industry to transfer responsibility for repairs, maintenance and renewal at stations to franchised operators.

The new Greater Anglia franchise, awarded on 20 October 2011, is the first to adopt many of these new measures. We expect to implement the full package of measures in the Intercity West Coast franchise when tenders are invited in the new year.

Railways: Disability

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail carriages *(a)* have been upgraded to meet with and *(b)* do not comply with the Persons with Reduced Mobility Technical Specifications for Interoperability requirements. [81927]

Norman Baker: Information on which rail vehicles have been built or fully refurbished to modern accessibility standards is available on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/transportforyou-access-rail-vehicles-pubs-rva/accessibilitystandards.xls

Approximately 6,500 heavy rail and 3,500 non-heavy rail (metro, tram and underground) vehicles (54% and 78% of each fleet respectively) remain in service which pre-date the introduction of modern access standards in 1998. These will need to be made accessible or withdrawn by 1 January 2020.

Railways: Economic Situation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the effect of economic conditions in the Eurozone on the cost of financing the *(a)* Thameslink rolling stock and *(b)* Intercity Express Programme contract. [R] [81852]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 418W.

Railways: Electrification

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent work her Department has undertaken on the proposed electrification of the railway line between Leeds and York via Harrogate. [76495]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not recently undertaken work on electrification of the railway line between Leeds and York via Harrogate.

Railways: Franchises

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse has been of the railway franchises operated by *(a)* Virgin Rail Group and *(b)* West Coast Trains. [81014]

Norman Baker: Subsidy and premium payments in respect of all rail franchises are published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in National Rail Trends (NRT). Copies of NRT are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* consultants in connection with negotiations with bidders for the Greater Anglia rail franchise since May 2010. [81060]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Since May 2010 the Department has spent the following in connection with the Greater Anglia franchise:

		£
(a)	Legal advisor	155,000
(b)	Technical advisor	270,000

Note:
These figures exclude VAT.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* consultants for work related to the (i) East Coast and (ii) Cross Country rail franchise in the last 12 months. [81195]

Mrs Villiers: *(a)* In the last 12 months the Department has spent the following amounts on solicitors (external) in connection with the franchises listed in the following table:

	£
(i) East Coast	0
(ii) Cross country	0

(b) In the last 12 months the Department has spent the following amounts on consultants in connection with the franchises listed in the following table;

	£
(i) East Coast	0
(ii) Cross country	0

The above figures do not include any project costs which are integrated and impact the franchises detailed above.

Railways: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at how many locations on the third-rail electrified network conductor rail heating has been installed since 1 January 2011; and how many further locations are planned for installation by 31 December 2012. [76800]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2011]:* Network Rail is rolling out an extensive programme of conductor rail heating across London and the south-east. The current programme entails the installation of approximately 80 km of conductor rail heating spanning 421 locations across the Kent, Sussex and Wessex routes.

42 locations were fitted in the first phase of the programme in 2010. Approximately 85% of the 421 locations will be completed by 1 December 2011 with the remaining locations being completed by January 2012.

Railways: Standards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on allowing railway operating companies to reduce capacity and increase over-crowding; and if she will make a statement. [80170]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* In making decisions on franchise requirements and rail capacity, the Government consider value for money, affordability and wider transport, economic and environmental objectives.

Shipping

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the conclusion of her Department's National Policy Statement for Ports published in October 2011 that coastal shipping is expected to grow, what estimate her Department has made of the potential increase in such shipping. [81222]

Mike Penning: The Department has not undertaken specific forecasts of coastal shipping but we would expect it to grow at least in line with growth in the traffic sectors carried.

Transport

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department plans to publish a National Policy Statement for national networks. [81218]

Justine Greening: We plan to designate the National Networks National Policy Statement by the end of 2012.

Transport: Passengers

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding was allocated to passenger transport executives by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other bodies in 2010-11; [81953]

(2) how much funding was allocated by passenger transport executives in 2010-11. [81955]

Norman Baker: In 2010-11, the Department for Transport allocated £566.16 million to passenger transport executives, either directly or via their respective integrated transport authorities. This includes funding for local major schemes and rail support but does not include the £70 million the Department provides to Merseytravel for the operation of the devolved Merseyrail network.

The following table gives a breakdown of this figure by passenger transport executive:

Passenger transport executive	*Funding allocated (£000)*
Centro (West Midlands)	37,584
Greater Manchester PTE	260,744
Merseytravel	39,820
Metro (West Yorkshire)	94,130
Nexus (Tyne and Wear)	85,138
South Yorkshire PTE	48,745
Total	566,161

While some of the variation in the above table will be due to the differing geographical sizes of the passenger transport executive areas (as well as other factors), funding for local major schemes has a large effect. For instance, Greater Manchester received £137 million in 2010-11 for local major schemes while four of the other passenger transport executives received no money.

The Department does not hold information on funding allocated to passenger transport executives from other bodies.

Tugboats

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation her Department undertook with *(a)* maritime users, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other organisations on its proposal to remove emergency towing vessels. [80627]

Mike Penning: Because the decision was taken and announced as part of the comprehensive spending review, it would not have been appropriate to launch any formal consultation.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the possible safety implications for shipping of the withdrawal of emergency towing vehicles in relation to the Clair Ridge oil field development project. [81219]

Mike Penning: No specific assessment of the withdrawal of emergency towing vessels (ETVs) has been carried out in relation to the Clair Ridge oil field development project.

The licensing regime for offshore exploration activities includes the requirement for the licensee to prepare a full safety case in relation to their activity. This includes an assessment of the risk to safety of navigation in the area and proposals for appropriate mitigation measures.

Since 1 October 2011, the Scotland Office has been responsible for leading efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the ETV service in waters around Scotland surrounding the Northern and Western Isles.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the safety implications for shipping of the withdrawal of emergency towing vehicles covering the English Channel. [81260]

Mike Penning: We are satisfied that there is sufficient commercial tug capacity to provide an acceptable response to disabled vessels that break down in the vicinity of the Dover strait and the south-west approaches.

Shipping is not risk free, but the world has moved on considerably since emergency towing vessels were introduced. Improvements in ship technology, navigation and safety systems, together with the advent of new ship routing and reporting measures, and advances in shore-based surveillances, mean less risk of vessels grounding and potentially polluting our waters.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have received from the French Government on the withdrawal of emergency towing vehicles covering the English Channel. [81261]

Mike Penning: The French Government have made representations both at ministerial level and at official level in relation to the UK's decision to withdraw provision of publicly funded emergency towing vessel (ETV) services.

The French Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing wrote to the UK's Secretary for State for Transport. My officials have met with the French Defence Attaché to the UK, their Permanent Representatives to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London, as well as attending the Anglo-French Safety of Navigation Group (AFSONG) and the Anglo-French Accident Technical Group (AFATG) meetings; ETVs were discussed at both meetings.

US Aviation: Meetings

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has any plans to meet officials from the *(a)* US Federal Aviation Administration or *(b)* US Department of Transportation. [80153]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Crawley (Henry Smith), on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 187W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Data Monitoring

Karl McCartney: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether there have been any occasions when *(a)* telephones and *(b)* emails and data held on computers on the Parliamentary Estate have been (i) illegally and (ii) legally monitored in the last five years. [80589]

John Thurso: There is no record of illegal access to telephones or emails and data held on computers on the parliamentary estate in the last five years.

Some telephone calls, for example to the PICT service desk, are monitored for training and quality purposes, and the caller is always informed of this. Otherwise, there has been no monitoring of phone calls of Members, Members' staff or House staff during the past five years.

There has been no monitoring of Members' emails and data in the past five years. Only in extraordinary circumstances, under the explicit authority of Mr Speaker, would any such monitoring take place.

The situation as regards emails and data held on the computers of House staff and Members' staff is the same as for emails and data of employees in any organisation: the information is protected under the Data Protection Act, but the employer has the right to monitor or investigate the contents of emails if there is a legitimate reason to do so. At the request of the Members concerned, emails and data of three staff of Members have been monitored in the past 18-months; records are not available for the period before that. It is unusual for the contents of emails and data of House staff to be monitored, though there have been occasions within the past five years. When this occurs, it is done in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 7.6.7 of the Staff Handbook.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* support staff were employed by the Serious Fraud Office in each of the last five years; [81943]

(2) what proportion of Serious Fraud Office investigations proceed to *(a)* charges being made and *(b)* conviction in each of the last five years. [81944]

The Attorney-General: The SFO does not employ any police officers. SFO investigative staff come from a range of different backgrounds and some may have previously worked as police officers.

Staff numbers for non-operational roles in each of the last five years, as at 31 March, are:

	Staff (number)
Currently as of 18 November 2011	61
2010-11	64
2009-10	57
2008-09	[1]41
2007-08	54

[1] A management approved voluntary early retirement scheme exercise took place in March 2009 which may have impacted these figures

The SFO receives hundreds of referrals from all sources, including the general public every year. The SFO accepts only the most complex and difficult cases as shown in their published selection criteria which can be found online at:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/victims/individual-victims/can-i-report-a-fraud-or-corruption-directly-to-the-sfo.aspx

and refers the rest to other law enforcement organisations or regulators as appropriate. Records are not maintained on the number which are referred to other public organisations. Cases that are accepted undergo an intense three-month, focused research into the allegations made. At the end of this period the SFO reviews the case in depth to establish the most suitable way of taking it forward—for example, a full criminal investigation or civil recovery action. Approximately 10% of cases are stopped at this stage. All charging decisions are made in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Once defendants have been charged, the case is very unlikely to be stopped. This has happened only once in the last four years.

All active investigations in the SFO undergo case reviews at least quarterly. This ensures the investigation into allegations remain focussed. Cases being prosecuted are kept regularly under review in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Conviction rates in the last five years

	Percentage of defendants found guilty
2010-11	84
2009-10	90
2008-09	78
2007-08	68
2006-07	58

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he has any plans to visit the Democratic Republic of Congo. [80855]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development routinely publish details of visits through press releases unless there are security issues which preclude such disclosure. Where external bodies are involved the information would be provided when available unless, once again, there are security issues which would restrict the timing and extent of disclosure.

Nicaragua

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to visit Nicaragua. [79948]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: No.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Capital Allowances

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on changes to capital allowances in the agricultural sector. [81122]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has had no discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on changes to capital allowances in the agricultural sector.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what applications for judicial review have been made against her Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by her Department for each such application; in each failed application whether she applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether her Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80731]

Richard Benyon: Since May 2010, 10 applications have been made for judicial review against the Department: one was successful, four failed, two were settled and three remain pending.

The legal cost (of counsel) incurred for each to date is as follows. Fee notes are outstanding in many of these cases and the figures do not include estimates for accruals.

	£
Case 1	450
Case 2	0
Case 3	20,885
Case 4	870
Case 5	0
Case 6	35,812
Case 7	1,780
Case 8	480
Case 9	1,085
Case 10	4,970

Costs were applied for in each of the four failed applications, awarded in three, and have been paid in two (so far).

The Department did not pay for, or offer to pay, the costs of any of the applicants whose application failed.

The information as to what applications for judicial review were made against the Department in the last Parliament is not readily available and the cost to obtain it would be disproportionate.

Departmental Manpower

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff work on the *(a)* infectious diseases: animal and plant, *(b)* flooding and *(c)* food and water workstream of the Capabilities Programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters. [79504]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has four work streams under the Capabilities programme: animal disease; flooding; food supply; and water supply. Plant disease is not a work stream within this programme. Full-time equivalent data on each of the work streams are listed in the following table:

Quarter ending	*Animal disease*	*Flooding*	*Food*	*Water*
As of 4 November 2011	18.4	1	1.5	1.8
30 September 2011	18.4	1	1.5	2.6
30 June 2011	20.4	1	1.5	2.6
31 March 2011	20	1	1.5	2.6
31 December 2010	19	1	1.5	2.6
30 September 2010	23.83	1	1.5	2.6
30 June 2010	22.83	1	1.5	2.6
31 March 2010	25.83	1	1.5	2.6
31 December 2009	27.53	1	1.5	2.6
30 September 2009	26.73	1	1.5	2.6
30 June 2009	27.23	1	1.5	2.6

Note:
Numbers reflect numbers of staff working in the core Department. Animal disease figures are significantly higher as, for the other work streams, the bulk of the activity which supports the programme objectives is carried out by others outside DEFRA.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings she has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [75707]

Richard Benyon: We do not keep records for the categories used in this question. However, between April 2011 to date, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has met with more than 13 organisations with charitable links and nine representatives of private companies.

Quarterly returns of all ministerial meetings are published on our website, following Cabinet Office guidelines and from May 2010 to March 2011 can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/ministers/transparency/

Departmental Training

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many external training courses staff of her Department attended in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each course. [74352]

Richard Benyon: The information to answer this question is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fisheries: Birds of Prey

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects her Department's review of policy on managing the impact on inland fisheries of predation by fish-eating birds to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [82224]

Richard Benyon: The review of policy relating to fish-eating birds is expected to conclude early in 2012, with recommendations being made to Ministers in the spring of 2012. The findings of the review will be published shortly after this.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government will publish guidance on company social tariffs under section 44 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. [80289]

Richard Benyon: The Government are currently consulting on draft company social tariff guidance under section 44 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. More information can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/10/26/social-tariffs/

We aim to publish final guidance early next year.

Hydroelectric Power: Regulation

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to deregulate the establishment of small-scale hydroelectric schemes; and if she will make a statement. [81648]

Richard Benyon: We do not have any plans to deregulate the establishment of small-scale hydroelectric schemes. However, we are working to ensure the administrative burden of meeting essential environmental standards is kept to a minimum. The Environment Agency has streamlined administrative arrangements for the application and determination processes for those applying for the necessary permissions. The Environment Agency is also working with stakeholders to revise its environmental good practice guidelines for hydropower. We will continue to seek to maintain the right balance between encouraging growth in this sector and ensuring that sufficient environmental protection standards remain in place.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times her Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011. [78064]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not keep a central record of the number of times it has sought legal advice from external counsel. It does record payments to external counsel, although not the reason for those payments, which can be payments for representation in court or for legal advice.

It is not necessarily the case that each payment equates to a separate piece of work. The figures include some payments relating to work for DEFRA's executive agencies, but exclude any external legal advice obtained directly by executive agencies, records of which are not held centrally. It would be disproportionately costly to disaggregate the figures.

	Total number of payments made to external counsel
2007	296
2009	257
2010	225
2011 (first six months)	120

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) her Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by her Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78097]

Richard Benyon: The Department's records do not separate out the cost of legal advice from other expenditure on legal services, but the full net cost of the Department's in-house legal team is shown in the following table, with figures rounded to the nearest £1,000. Presenting this by calendar year (as opposed to financial year) and including expenditure on legal advice that may have occurred outside the in-house legal team in these years would incur disproportionate cost.

	Net cost of in house team (£)
2007-08	8,429,000
2009-10	8,256,000
2010-11	7,205,000
2011-12 (April to June)	1,764,000

The figures in the above table include payments made to external counsel.

The following table shows only those payments made to external counsel in the calendar years specified. They include costs relating to representation in court and not legal advice alone. It would be disproportionately costly to identify these types of costs separately.

	Payments to external counsel (£)
2007	533,071
2009	602,861
2010	425,126
2011 (first six months)	377,010

The figures in both the above tables include the cost of internal and external legal services provided to executive agencies. It would be disproportionately costly to disaggregate the figures for DEFRA from its executive agencies.

The Department's records do not identify cases in which the Department has been taken to court (and the outcome) as distinct from other cases, such as those that the Department has brought against others and cases resolved under a formal pre-action protocol. To disaggregate cases brought against the Department and their outcome would incur disproportionate cost.

The number of times the Department's decisions have been subject to judicial review and the outcome of these cases since 2009 are as follows:

	Number	*Outcome*
2009	15	12 unsuccessful challenges 3 successful challenges
2010	6	2 unsuccessful challenges 2 successful challenges 2 settled
2011 (first six months)	4	3 unsuccessful challenges 1 ongoing

To provide figures for 2007 would incur disproportionate cost.

Poultry: EU Law

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on EU-wide implementation of the EU laying hens directive by the 2012 deadline; and if she will make a statement. [81328]

Mr Paice: The UK is fully engaged with the Commission and other member states in finding a practical enforcement solution to large scale non-compliance. The cage ban was an agenda item at the Agriculture Council meeting

held on 14 November 2011 which I attended. Disappointingly little progress was made, and discussions are continuing.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), wrote jointly with nine other concerned member states to the European Commission in September. They urged the Commission to act quickly to protect those producers across the EU who will have complied with the ban, from the risk of competitive distortion in favour of those who will have maintained illegal production after 1 January 2012.

Rural Areas

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials work in her Department's Rural Policy Unit. [81563]

Richard Benyon: The Rural Communities Policy Unit currently has 33 staff and is also able to draw on dedicated support from DEFRA economists and social researchers.

Water Supply

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date the Water White Paper will be published. [80293]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is committed to publishing the Water White Paper in December.

Wild Mammals

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* proceeded against and *(b)* found guilty of offences under the (i) Badgers Act 1991, (ii) Deer Act 1999, (iii) Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 and (iv) Hunting Act 2004 in (A) 2009 and (B) 2010. [79354]

Richard Benyon: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for and found guilty at all courts of offences under the (i) Protection of Badgers Act 1992, (ii) Deer Act 1991, (iii) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (iv) Hunting Act 2004, in 2009 and 2010, is shown in the following table:

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected animal related offences, England and Wales, 2009-10[1,2]

	2009		2010	
Statute	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Sections 1-5 and 10	44	26	40	23
Protection of Badgers Act 1992, section 13	6	4	8	6
Deer Act 1991	3	2	10	5
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	8	5	6	4
Hunting Act 2004	92	59	49	36

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected animal related offences, England and Wales, 2009-10[1,2]

	2009		2010	
Statute	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Total	153	96	113	74

[1] The figures presented relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Empty Property: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of properties in Halifax town centre are vacant; and what proportion were vacant in 2010. [74001]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency does not hold data on the occupancy status of properties.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) publishes figures on the number of vacant properties in the local authority of Calderdale, which includes Halifax town. Figures for smaller geographical areas are not available.

The number of vacant dwellings in Calderdale from 2004-10 can be found in the following table on the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1815793.xls

The number of empty non-domestic hereditaments in Calderdale for 2010 can be found in the following table on the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1972201.xls

Fire Services: Costs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire authorities are paying the leasing costs of regional control centres; and how much each is paying each month. [80397]

Robert Neill: There are nine regional control centres. The lease costs of five are paid directly by DCLG. For the other four, DCLG grant-fund the fire and rescue services, who then pay the lease costs themselves. The amounts currently involved are shown in the following table.

The National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, "The Failure of the FiReControl project", states on the empty buildings:

"The Department's failure to manage the project as a whole has resulted in the creation of empty regional control centres. The nine regional control centres were purpose-built to house the new computerised equipment and were designed specifically for that purpose. The Department's decision to prioritise the procurement of the centres over the IT system at an early stage meant that the first centres were completed in June 2007, just three months after the IT contract had been awarded".

Our aim is now to achieve the best possible value for money for the tax payer from these buildings. One control centre has been assigned to the fire service, in London. They are due to move in shortly. DCLG is working with a number of fire that rescue authorities and other emergency services that have expressed an interest in taking on a regional control centre, in order to make good use of the buildings. The decision as to whether fire and rescue services use the buildings is entirely a local matter.

DCLG have reduced the facilities management costs for the buildings by 25% and utilities by 35%, and will look to make further savings where appropriate.

Regional control centre	*Lease costs per month (£)*
North East Regional Control Centre (DCLG grant to Durham Fire Authority)	[1]107,033
North West Regional Control Centre (DCLG grant to Greater Manchester Fire Authority)	[2]142,017
London Regional Control Centre (DCLG grant to Greater London Authority)	[1]225,263
East Midlands Regional Control Centre (DCLG grant Leicestershire Fire Authority)	[1]110,849
South East Regional Control Centre (DCLG pay directly)	[3]121,000
South West Regional Control Centre (DCLG pay directly)	[3]102,372.53
East of England Regional Control Centre (DCLG pay directly)	[3]113,329.44
West Midlands Regional Control Centre (DCLG pay directly)	[3]114,763.87
Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Control Centre (DCLG pay directly)	[3]100,531.20

[1] Includes rent, utilities and estates costs.
[2] Includes rent, utilities, estates and facilities management costs.
[3] Includes rent.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he has made an estimate of the average cost to individual members of the implementation of his proposed changes to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme. [81918]

Robert Neill: In his interim report on public service pension reform, Lord Hutton of Furness recommended increasing employee contributions as the cost of public service pensions had increased by a third due to improving longevity and this additional cost had fallen primarily on taxpayers. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's rationale and, at the spending review, announced the intention to implement progressive increases to employee contribution rates in public sector pension schemes, equivalent to 3.2% on average to be phased in from April 2012.

A statutory consultation for the firefighters' pension schemes in England was published on 9 September 2011 and consults on proposed increases from April 2012 for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 and the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006. Under those proposals, a fulltime firefighter earning £28,200 in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 would pay an additional £24 a month after tax relief, and the same firefighter in the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 would pay an additional £11 a month after tax relief. There remain strong economic reasons why all members should remain in good quality, guaranteed, reformed public service pension schemes.

Growing Places Fund

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effects on rural areas of its Growing Places Fund. [82214]

Grant Shapps: The Growing Places Fund will help promote both urban and rural job creation and housing. It will unlock investment in supporting infrastructure that will make development more sustainable in both urban and rural settings. Local Enterprise Partnerships are in the lead, and I refer the hon. Member to the Growing Places Fund prospectus which is in the Library of the House.

Gurkhas: Aldershot

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how he plans that his recently announced £1.5 million funding to ease the pressure on Aldershot as a result of Gurkha immigration will be spent. [81924]

Andrew Stunell: The new £1.5 million fund will support the successful integration of retired Gurkha soldiers and their dependants who, having served in the British Army, now wish to settle in the United Kingdom.

My officials will be contacting authorities with major Gurkha populations, the Gurkha Welfare Trust and other Gurkha charities to discuss how this fund can be used most effectively to help address need and support wider settlement. Further meetings are due to take place over the next week. We will make a further announcement in due course.

Housing: Disadvantaged

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effect of housing supply on levels of social exclusion; and what steps his Department plans to take to address such effects. [82084]

Grant Shapps: Good quality, suitable, and well located housing, is fundamentally important to social inclusion and social mobility. One of the most important things each generation can do for the next is to build high-quality homes that will stand the test of time. By the end of the

last Government's tenure, however, housebuilding rates had reached lows not seen in peacetime since the 1920s. This is not sustainable and not fair on young people and families. This Government are putting their full weight behind efforts to help the housebuilding industry get back to working at its full capacity. "Laying The Foundations—The Government's Housing Strategy for England" was published on Monday 21 November. The strategy sets out a bold new approach to get the housing market moving again, whilst also laying the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future.

Mobile Homes: Licensing

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1045W, on mobile homes: licensing, whether he has held any discussions with Ministers of the Welsh Government on his plans to consult on measures to improve the licensing regime for mobile park homes. [81885]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government has informed the Welsh Assembly Government of its plans to consult on the licensing regime for mobile home sites. Site licensing is a devolved matter and the consultation will extend to England only.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1045W, on mobile homes: licensing, when he plans to undertake his consultation on measures to improve the licensing regime for mobile park homes. [81886]

Grant Shapps: I plan to publish the consultation paper in due course.

Rescue Services: Manpower

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* uniformed and *(b)* non-uniformed staff were employed in each fire and rescue service in England in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011 to date. [81917]

Robert Neill: Fire and rescue service operational statistics are published on my Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firerescue/

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 80597 tabled on 8 November 2011 for named day answer on 14 November 2011. [82206]

Greg Clark: Question 80597 was answered on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 59W.

TREASURY

Big Society Capital: Barnsley

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much is estimated to be in the dormant account fund of *(a)* Northern Rock, *(b)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(c)* Lloyds TSB; and how much he estimates will be spent in Barnsley Central constituency. [82191]

Mr Hoban: The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act gives the Reclaim Fund responsibility for managing the dormant account funds, meeting customer reclaims and passing on surplus funds for reinvestment in the community. The Reclaim Fund collects dormant account funds and the Government does not determine the amounts that are retrieved from individual banks.

The British Bankers' Association and the Building Societies Association have estimated that the current value of dormant accounts in the United Kingdom is £400 million. England has been apportioned 83.9% of dormant account funds released for reinvestment.

Big Society Capital: Charities

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with bank foundations on charitable giving to arts and culture charities. [82192]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has not had any discussions with bank foundations specifically concerning charitable giving to arts and culture charities.

As announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his first Budget, the Government have introduced the Bank Levy, a permanent levy on banks' balance sheets, to ensure they make a fair contribution in respect of the potential risks they pose to the UK financial system and wider economy.

Corporation Tax: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the effect on the size of the block grant to Northern Ireland of a reduction in corporation tax to 12.5 per cent; [82000]

(2) if he will estimate the effect on the size of the block grant to Northern Ireland if corporation tax were reduced by *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* five and *(e)* eight per cent. [82001]

Mr Gauke: Initial estimates of the effect on the size of the block grant to Northern Ireland of a reduction in corporation tax were included in the Government's consultation paper Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy, published on 24 March 2011. However no decisions have been made on how the block grant adjustment would work if corporation tax were devolved.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78059]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011; [78073]

(3) how many times his Department's legal section provided legal advice to Ministers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78075]

(4) how many officials in his Department were working in its legal section in June 2011; and how many staff were working in the legal departments of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies; [78083]

(5) how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review; [78091]

(6) how many *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* ministerial orders and *(c)* other pieces of secondary legislation were issued by his Department in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) each year since 1999 and (iv) 2011 to date. [78107]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury Solicitor has opened 47 cases on behalf of HM Treasury for the current financial year. Not all of these cases will involve civil litigation or judicial review proceedings, and counsel can also be engaged to provide advice without the formal opening of a case. HM Treasury does not keep a central record of each time external counsel is instructed, and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the period April to September 2011 the total cost of legal advice, in terms of bills paid, was £1,351,558.76. This relates to costs paid to external advisers and to the Treasury Solicitor's Department (which provides the internal legal advisers to the Treasury as well as litigation services), and includes £79,096 paid by HM Treasury for advice obtained from counsel instructed on its behalf, by the Treasury Solicitor's Department (other than directly by Treasury legal advisers). However, HM Treasury records are collated per financial year and these figures may not include invoices not yet received or bills not yet paid.

The total amounts spent on legal services in previous years, including advisory services and instructing counsel, are provided in the following table:

	Cost (£)
2007-08	2,644,621.16
2008-09	10,604,514.57
2009-10	17,743,055.43
2010-11	3,945,452.98

All the figures above relate to financial and not calendar years. For the years 2008-10, legal costs associated with banking interventions were fully reimbursed to the Treasury by the banks, thus the actual amount of net expenditure incurred by HM Treasury was substantially lower. The sums recovered from the banks are fully documented in HM Treasury's Resource Accounts.

We do not separately record costs incurred instructing counsel and to provide the information requested to an appropriate level of accuracy would incur disproportionate costs.

Legal advice to Ministers and officials is a regular function of the Treasury legal advisers. It is not possible to quantify the number of times legal advice has been provided to Ministers over any given period.

The Treasury legal advisers are provided by the Treasury Solicitor's Department. In June 2011 there were 33 permanent legal staff working for HM Treasury (this covers both full-time and part-time staff). The Treasury legal advisers also provide legal services to the Treasury's agencies and non-departmental bodies but such entities may also commission external legal advice. HM Treasury does not have a central record of the number of staff its agencies and non-departmental bodies employ in their legal departments. The Asset Protection Agency had one permanent legal adviser, plus two secondees, in June 2011.

HM Treasury does not record centrally the number of times it has been taken to court, the number of decisions taken that have been subject to judicial review or the outcome of each case. However, recorded case details are available publicly, for example from the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII), which can be found online at:

http://www.bailii.org/

The following table provides details of the number of HM Treasury statutory instruments (including ministerial orders):

	Number of statutory instruments
1990	32
1995	30
1999	35
2000	35
2001	110
2002	93
2003	49
2004	59
2005	53
2006	26
2007	39
2008	44
2009	74
2010	32
2011 to date	39

Economic Growth: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the Government plans to publish its response to the consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy; [81996]

(2) if he will publish the responses to his Department's consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. [82004]

Mr Gauke: The Government have announced that a joint ministerial working group on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy will be established, comprising Ministers of HM Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, to consider issues raised by the consultation.

No decision has yet been made on whether or not to devolve corporation tax and a final decision is expected next year. This decision will be informed by the work developed by the joint ministerial working group.

Further details of the Government's response to the consultation and a summary of responses received will be published later in the autumn.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers have had on the consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. [82003]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), visited Northern Ireland on 17 June 2011 and discussed the Government's consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy with members of the Northern Ireland Executive and the business community.

I have had a series of meetings on this topic with members of the Executive and also attended the launch of the consultation in Northern Ireland. I also attended consultation events in London and Belfast where this issue was discussed with representatives of businesses and other interested parties.

Additionally, Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Energy Supply

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has met with representatives of *(a)* EDF-Energy, *(b)* RWE nPower, *(c)* Eon, *(d)* Scottish Power, *(e)* British Gas Centrica and *(f)* Scottish and Southern Energy since May 2010; and if he will publish minutes of those meetings. [80437]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The Treasury publishes a list of ministerial meetings with external organisations, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Housing: Unemployment

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to take steps to ensure that people who are unemployed are not refused home insurance due to their employment status. [82205]

Mr Hoban: As a rule, insurers use their claims experience and other industry-wide statistics to assess the risks posed by an individual and set the terms and price at which they will offer insurance cover. This can mean that where insurers think it relevant, people who are unemployed are offered more expensive cover or different terms.

However, people who are unemployed should still be able to find insurance in the current market. For those who have difficulty the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) is able to advise on how best to look across the insurance market for appropriate cover and may be able to provide names of specialist brokers who can advise on the availability of appropriate insurance and trawl the market for the best available deals.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to introducing a mortgage relief scheme for first-time buyers or new build properties. [81865]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

PAYE: Pilot Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations are participating in the HM Revenue and Customs pilot of real-time information for PAYE; and what the expected duration is of the pilot. [81909]

Mr Gauke: The employers involved in the pilot are volunteers and have been chosen to be a representative group of organisations operating PAYE. They range in size and complexity from those with one employee to very large complex employers with many employees or pensioners. Those participating include local government banks, payroll bureaux and agents, retail and manufacturing, farmers, universities, colleges and schools, charities, hotels, film companies, software developers, pension providers and services companies. This is not an exhaustive list. It is not possible to name the organisations as those participating in the pilot have not given their consent to disclosure.

The pilot is expected to last one year. The Department is exploring whether more employers and pension providers could be brought into RTI during 2012-13 if the pilot is working well.

Public Expenditure

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of public spending per head of population in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in respect of (i) education, (ii) health, (iii) transport and (iv) policing. [81644]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The latest statistics on identifiable public expenditure by sub-function per head of population for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found in tables B.5 to B.8 of the October 2011 National Statistics Public Expenditure Release published by Treasury. The figures are reproduced in the following table:

Table 1: Identifiable spending on selected services for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

£ per head

		2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England	Education	1,179	1,261	1,338	1,424	1,446
	Health	1,515	1,631	1,749	1,877	1,900
	Transport	306	311	315	343	344
	Policing	248	250	270	276	272

Table 1: Identifiable spending on selected services for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

					£ per head	
		2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Scotland	Education	1,397	1,432	1,466	1,492	1,541
	Health	1,766	1,891	1,969	2,040	2,072
	Transport	529	551	529	562	536
	Policing	218	228	240	250	247
Wales	Education	1,246	1,325	1,391	1,446	1,415
	Health	1,688	1,772	1,860	1,973	2,017
	Transport	300	314	344	384	400
	Policing	232	236	249	256	260
Northern Ireland	Education	1,327	1,383	1,424	1,498	1,509
	Health	1,700	1,736	1,859	1,924	2,106
	Transport	222	296	305	310	360
	Policing	476	474	479	545	576

Source:
National Statistics

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of people who have benefited from the stamp duty relief on properties under £250,000 in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Aberconwy constituency. [81866]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced at the Budget that the outcome of a review of the stamp duty land tax relief for first time buyers will be announced in autumn 2011.

Tax Allowances: Travel

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees in the UK used *(a)* Cycle to Work schemes, *(b)* employer-provided buses and *(c)* tax-free parking in the latest period for which figures are available. [81874]

Mr Gauke: This information is not collected as there is no requirement for employers to report use of these benefits in kind to HM Revenue and Customs.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewes (Norman Baker), on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 408W, for further information on the Cycle to Work scheme.

Taxation

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that people who do not have internet access are able to obtain copies of their tax records by other means. [81864]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs are committed to continue providing permanent, dedicated support to customers who are unable to access our services online. This support may be provided, for example, through the use of intermediaries or alternative channels.

Customers wishing to gain access to their tax records can do so in accordance with the Data Protection Act guidelines. Customers should address their request to the 'Data Protection Officer', including enough details to enable us to verify their identity and locate the relevant information. Further information can be found by contacting HMRC and asking for a copy of leaflet DP/FS1 or on the HMRC website at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/dp-fs1.htm

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the variety of cultural venues in each region and their effect on private sector investment in arts organisations. [80789]

Mr Vaizey: We have made no such assessment. The key factor in determining private sector investment in arts organisations is strong leadership. We know there is scope to strengthen philanthropy and other forms of income generation across the country. It is for arts organisations to develop and cultivate support from a range of sources. In September this Department, along with Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, announced details of the £100 million Catalyst scheme to boost private giving to culture. This will enable arts and heritage organisations across the country to diversify the way they generate income, increase their fundraising potential and develop new ways to secure private giving.

Big Society Capital: Creative Industries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps is he taking to ensure that the arts and creative industries can make use of dormant account money when it is invested in the Big Society Bank. [82193]

Mr Vaizey: Big Society Capital (BSC, formerly referred to as the 'Big Society Bank') set out in its outline proposal of May 2011, that it will use dormant account money to boost significantly the ability of the social sector to deal with social issues. BSC will act as a wholesale investor for social investment, investing capital in intermediaries so that they are able to invest in frontline organisations. There is no reason why intermediary organisations working in the arts and other creative sectors cannot apply to this fund, and we will be working with our public bodies to encourage them to do so.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for how many *(a)* days per week and *(b)* weeks per year on average the 89 unpaid interns of the National Museum of Science and Industry were employed from September 2009 to September 2010. [82190]

Mr Vaizey: The National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) does not hold complete data on the number of days per week worked by each intern employed

from September 2009 to September 2010, and is not able to obtain this data retrospectively. However, it is estimated the average number of days worked per week by each intern is 2.5. On average, interns were based at NMSI for a period of 26-weeks per year. Internships ranged from a five day placement to a yearlong research fellowship.

Gambling: Internet

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* governments of non-EU countries on the regulation of internet gambling. [82090]

John Penrose: I have been in contact with the governing authorities of Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, Malta, the Isle of Man, Antigua and Barbuda, and Tasmania, to discuss and inform them of my remote gambling proposals, particularly in relation to the phasing out of the white list and the transitional arrangements.

I also wrote to my counterparts in the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Last month I met the European Commission and discussed the remote gambling proposals on an informal basis. While in Brussels I also made a speech on Government policy in this area, which can be found on my Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/ministers_speeches/8638.aspx

Independent Commercial Television Broadcast Sector

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to promote the independent commercial television broadcast sector. [81913]

Mr Vaizey: As we take forward the communications review, we will take into account the thoughts and concerns of the independent commercial television broadcast sector in developing our proposals.

Museums: Libraries

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department plans to spend on *(a)* museums and *(b)* libraries in each of the next four years; [82194]

(2) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* museums and *(b)* libraries in each of the last five years. [82195]

Mr Vaizey: The following tables show the amount of funding the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has spent on museums and libraries from 2006-07 to 2010-11, and how much it plans-to spend from 2011-12 to 2014-15. The tables reflect the grant-in-aid paid for the Department's national museums and the British Library from 2006-07 to 2010-11, and the funding allocated to these bodies in the October 2010 spending review settlement from 2011-12 to 2014-15. These figures can be seen on the Department's website at:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/

Updates will be published periodically in the same location. The funding allocated programmes to support "museums and libraries—Renaissance in the Regions", Strategic Commissioning and DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund from 2006-07 to 2014-15. The funding was allocated to the Department's grant-funded museums from 2006-07 to 2014-15.

Grant in aid

£ million

Body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
British Museum	42.929	44.893	50.943	48.348	46.343
Natural History Museum	43.135	45.165	52.887	51.186	48.586
Imperial War Museum	20.613	22.177	23.888	24.163	23.910
National Gallery	23.985	25.597	26.369	27.287	28.201
National Maritime Museum[1]	17.008	18.491	19.750	19.240	19.002
National Museums Liverpool	21.203	22.326	22.488	23.643	23.712
National Portrait Gallery	7.031	7.038	7.693	7.744	7.577
National Museum of Science and Industry	37.329	38.484	39.158	40.608	40.153
Tate Gallery	34.124	45.929	61.385	55.987	54.729
Victoria and Albert Museum	39.112	42.262	44.860	44.761	44.318
Wallace Collection	3.528	4.156	4.228	4.301	4.212
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	4.059	4.171	4.788	4.987	4.882
Museum of London (transferred to GLA April 2008)	7.931	8.809	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sir John Soane's Museum	1.115	1.339	1.339	1.181	1.169
Horniman Museum	3.932	4.350	4.757	4.566	4.518
Geffrye Museum	1.740	1.956	1.748	1.791	1.773
Royal Armouries	7.814	8.917	8.264	8.474	8.389
Total Museums	316.588	346.060	374.545	368.267	361.474
British Library	102.643	106.480	106.947	109.464	105.847

[1] This include the ring-fenced allocation for National Historic Ships.

Spending review settlement

£ million

Body	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
British Museum	54.664	44.016	43.393	43.267
Natural History Museum	46.480	45.760	45.204	45.172
Imperial War Museum	21.706	21.436	21.239	21.273
National Gallery	26.744	26.320	25.980	25.911
National Maritime Museum[1]	17.058	16.848	16.693	16.723
National Museums Liverpool	21.875	21.561	21.323	21.327
National Portrait Gallery	7.398	7.277	7.183	7.172
National Museum of Science and Industry	37.582	37.026	36.602	36.596
Tate Gallery	35.305	34.912	34.837	33.441

Spending review settlement

£ million

Body	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Victoria and Albert Museum	41.355	40.705	40.203	40.167
Wallace Collection	2.983	2.946	2.918	2.922
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	3.998	3.927	3.871	3.860
Museum of London (transferred to GLA April 2008)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sir John Soane's Museum	1.130	1.111	1.096	1.094
Horniman Museum	4.275	4.199	4.139	4.127
Geffrye Museum	1.674	1.645	1.621	1.616
Royal Armouries	7.901	7.773	7.673	7.662
Total Museums	332.128	317.462	313.975	312.330
British Library	107.473	96.287	93.544	93.407

[1] This include the ring-fenced allocation for National Historic Ships.

Allocation

£ million

Programme	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund[1]	2	2	2	2	2	n/a	2.000	n/a	2.000
Renaissance in the Regions	32	45	46.215	47.463	47.04	45.567	44.725	44.050	43.914
Strategic Commissioning	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.56	2.373	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] The DCMS/Wolfson Fund, financed equally by Government and the Wolfson Foundation, supports projects which improve the quality of displays, public spaces, collection interpretation and disabled access in museums and galleries across England.

Allocation

£ million

Grants to smaller museums	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Design	0.483	0.503	0.414	0.425	0.424	0.328	0.257	0.202	0.163
NCMME	2.528	2.809	2.731	2.805	2.794	2.707	2.657	2.616	2.608
People's History	0.156	0.164	0.168	0.173	0.173	0.168	0.164	0.162	0.162
Tyne and Wear	1.861	2.326	2.362	2.399	2.848	1.918	1.893	1.872	1.868
Football Museum (ceased funding from 2010-11)	0.100	0.100	0.103	0.105	0.105	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	5.128	5.902	5.778	5.907	6.344	5.121	4.971	4.852	4.801

This Department has policy responsibility for public libraries but core funding for public libraries is paid to the 151 library authorities in England as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Until October 2011 the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) was responsible for library development and improvement. Grant-in-aid was used to deliver the Future Libraries Programme supporting 10 projects with a maximum of £10,000 per project to help library services face financial challenges.

MLA's responsibility for libraries was transferred to Arts Council England (ACE) and on 9 November ACE launched a second Libraries Development Initiative. It will run between March 2012 and March 2013 supporting around 10 projects with a maximum of £20,000 per project to create vibrant, sustainable 21st century library service.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the 2012 Olympic athletes' village will be funded by *(a)* public investment and *(b)* private investment. [82100]

Hugh Robertson: The construction cost of the Olympic village is estimated at £1.1 billion. This includes Olympic related costs such as re-fitting the accommodation after the games and athlete use for long-term legacy occupation. All these costs are initially funded by the public investment. Of the 2,818 new homes being created, 1,379 have been sold to affordable housing provider Triathlon Homes, for £268 million and the remaining 1,439 homes were recently sold to Qatari Diar/Delancey (QDD) Joint Venture for £557.5 million. Triathlon's investment includes a grant of £110 million from the Homes and Communities Agency. These receipts of at least £826 million more than cover the normal construction and development costs of the village but not the abnormal costs of the village project, which include having to construct the whole development at one time for use by athletes at games-time, the need to hold all of the apartments unsold during game-time and the need to extensively refit the accommodation post-games from athletes use to residential use. It is important to note, the QDD

agreement also provides for the public purse to benefit from a share in any profits arising from future improvements in the property markets. We cannot, therefore, assess the total cost of the village to the public purse at this time because we will recoup costs in the future. However, the overall financial outturn on the Olympic village is in line with previous forecasts and within the overall public sector funding package for the games.

Sport England: Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding Sport England allocated to voluntary sector or third sector organisations in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [81851]

Hugh Robertson: The information requested is not held by this Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Sport England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Sport England to write direct to the hon. Member for Harrow West.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which regions the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force has recruited in each year from 2005 to 2011. [82200]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 211W, to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson), and on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 987W, to the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan (Dr Whiteford).

Defence

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the UK retaining a full spectrum defence capability following the strategic defence and security review. [81721]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the right hon. Member to page 10 of the Government's Response to the House of Commons Defence Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2010-12 (HC 1639), published on 10 November 2011.

Copies of the response are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of staffing reductions on his Department's performance and productivity. [82176]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Defence Transformation programme, which is taking forward the structural and organisational changes flowing from the strategic defence and security review and the Levene review, is intended to enable the Department to manage the impact of the planned staffing reductions by providing the mechanism to match resources and outputs.

Priorities will be rigorously examined, non-essential work will be stopped, and other work will be done in different ways, including through outsourcing, organisational restructuring, and rationalisation. The single services are modelling their future manpower to minimise the effect on operational effectiveness.

Dubai

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which officials of his Ministry were present at the press conference in Dubai in June 2011 at which his predecessor answered questions on Libya, Syria and the UK strategic defence review. [80426]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), was accompanied during the media engagements in Dubai by a private secretary, and a special adviser from his private office. He was also supported by Her Majesty's ambassador to Dubai, the in-country Defence Attaché, and the embassy's media adviser.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department discusses regularly with the NHS trends in psychiatric problems experienced by former armed services personnel. [81540]

Mr Philip Hammond: Officials from the Ministry of Defence and the UK Departments of Health meet regularly, via the Partnership Board, to discuss issues including the mental health of our former service personnel.

At a local level, Defence officials meet regularly with their colleagues in the health services and devolved administrations to ensure our former service personnel receive the healthcare they are entitled to.

Gurkhas

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of Gurkha recruitment has been in each of the last four years; [82063]

(2) how many Gurkhas have been recruited in Nepal in each of the last four years. [82064]

Mr Robathan: The cost of Gurkha recruitment in each of the last four years was:

Financial year	*£ million*
2007-08	2.4
2008-09	2.2
2009-10	2.5
2010-11	2.5

The following numbers of Gurkhas have been recruited in Nepal in each of the last four years:

	Number
2007	230
2008	230
2009	176
2010	176

Libya

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide long-term support to Libya. [81467]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a small Defence Advisory Team as part of the UK embassy in Tripoli.

The UK is currently contributing £1.5 million to fund civilian experts assisting in a weapons disposal programme. As part of this commitment, the MOD has provided a small team of UK military specialists to work alongside the Libyans and United States in preventing the proliferation of surface to air missiles.

We stand ready to respond to any formal request for defence and security assistance from the new Libyan Government and will ensure that any support is coordinated with key partners.

Met Office

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the capital receipt his Department is likely to receive following the transfer of the Met Office from his Department. [82055]

Mr Robathan: The Met Office was transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 18 July 2011 as part of a wider machinery of government change which was undertaken as a first step to establishing a public data corporation (PDC). One of its aims is to create a vehicle to facilitate private investment. Proposals for a PDC are still under development and the shape and nature that the PDC takes will impact on the source and nature of any capital receipts realised by Government.

EDUCATION

Children: Disability

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to require schools to record whether a child has a disability. [81542]

Sarah Teather: Schools were asked to provide information on pupils with disabilities in January 2011 School Census returns on a voluntary basis. We have asked them to do likewise next year.

We will then consider future disability data collection arrangements in light of experience over both years, alongside considering work by the Education, Schools and Children's Services Information Standards Board to create a standard for data collection across children's services and education.

Child: Protection

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the possible additional risk to child protection of the extension of the shared accommodation rate of local housing allowance to *(a)* 25 to 34-year-olds who are (i) parents with part-custody of their children and (ii) women up until the latest stage of pregnancy and *(b)* other 25 to 34-year-olds; and if he will make a statement. [81118]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to assess any increased risk to children by extending the age threshold of the shared accommodation rate. The equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

contains estimates of the impacts of this measure at both Government office region and local authority area level but does not look at the implications for child protection.

Further financial assistance is available from local authorities through discretionary housing payments when they consider that additional help with housing costs is needed. Local authorities often award such payments to single pregnant women to cover a temporary housing benefit shortfall on moving into larger accommodation in anticipation of the birth of their child.

Cultural Education Review

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse of the Independent Review of Cultural Education is; and on what date the report of the review is to be published. [81554]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* Darren Henley is working on the cultural review on a voluntary basis, with the support of officials from both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education. The report will be published shortly.

Drugs: Health Education

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's expenditure was on the Frank drug awareness campaign in each year since its introduction. [82231]

Sarah Teather: Information on the amount of funding provided by the Department for Education is only available from the accounting year 2006-07. The amounts allocated to the service are shown in the following table:

Financial year	£
2006-07	984,177
2007-08	1,501,596
2008-09	1,543,273
2009-10	1,414,299
2010-11	4,631

This funding was a contribution to the overall FRANK campaign.

First Aid: Education

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many schools first aid is taught to pupils. [81602]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Department does not collect this information centrally. However, schools teach first aid within non-statutory personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. Pupils are taught how to recognise and follow health and safety procedures, ways of reducing risk and minimising harm in risky situations and how to use emergency and basic first aid.

We are reviewing personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, including sex and relationships education. The internal review is considering how to improve the quality of teaching; the core outcomes which we expect PSHE to achieve; and the core of knowledge and awareness that the Government should expect pupils to acquire at school. It is looking at existing research and also welcomes submissions of evidence and good practice before 30 November this year.

Life Skills

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to take any steps to promote Drinkaware's In:tuition life skills programme. [79277]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* It is not the role of Government to promote particular programmes. However, the work of the Alcohol Network of the Public Health Responsibility Deal launched on 15 March 2011 has, as one of its aims, support for the education of young people about the harms of alcohol misuse and the importance of delaying the onset of drinking. The Alcohol Network sub-group responsible for developing the pledge which addresses this issue is currently considering appropriate evidence-based programmes which look to be best placed to support this aim.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in each education authority area with selective grammar schools receives the pupil premium in *(a)* each of the grammar schools and *(b)* each of the other secondary schools in the area. [76172]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2011]:* Information on the percentage of pupils eligible for the deprivation pupil premium in each local authority with at least one grammar school has been placed in the House Libraries for *(a)* each grammar school and *(b)* other state-funded secondary schools in those authorities.

Information on the numbers of service children and looked-after children eligible for the pupil premium is not released at school level.

Schools: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding has been allocated to schools to pay for day release of PE teachers to organise sport in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [81691]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* Each eligible school will receive £7,600 per year in the two academic years 2011/12 and 2012/13 to release a PE teacher for one day a week to work with local primary schools to increase opportunities in competitive sport and to encourage greater take up of the school games.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young ambassadors have taken part in organising sporting activities in each local authority area in each school year since 2006-07; how many he anticipates will take part in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [81696]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Department does not collect this information. The role of young ambassadors is to act as advocates and role models by using the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to encourage other young people to take up sport and physical activity. This includes: increasing participation in school sport; promoting healthy lifestyles; promoting the Olympic and Paralympic values; and supporting the delivery of the school games. As part of this work, many young ambassadors will help to organise sporting activities.

Teachers: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of active members of the teachers' pension scheme earn up to £15,000 per annum. [81289]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Figures provided by teachers' pension show that as of 31 March 2011 there were 92,578 active members with salaries up to £15,000.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people were making contributions to the teachers' pension scheme on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many people were making such contributions 12 months previously. [81428]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The "Teachers' Pensions Scheme (England and Wales) Annual Accounts" provide the most current full year figures for active membership of the teachers' pension scheme.

The 2010-11 accounts show that as of 31 March 2010 there were 658,351 active members and as of 31 March 2009 there were 628,344 active members.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of active members of the teachers' pension scheme earning less than £15,000 per year *(a)* are female and *(b)* work part-time. [81575]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* In the financial year 2010-11 there were 92,578 active members with salaries up to £15,000. Of these 73,283, were female and 92,284 worked part-time.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of a teacher's pensionable pay is deducted in pension contributions. [81877]

Mr Gibb: The current employee contribution to the teachers' pension scheme is 6.4% of pensionable salary. The Department is currently considering responses to its recent consultation to increase employee contributions to the TPS from 1 April 2012. The increases would average 3.2% but would be tiered, so that those who earn more will pay more and the lowest earners will be protected.

Vocational Education

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the proportion of young people aged 14 to 16 years who would benefit from receiving vocational education for more than 20 per cent. of their school time. [81147]

Mr Gibb: The Wolf review of vocational education made recommendations for Government to improve the quality of vocational education offered to 14 to 16-year-olds, wherever they take their education. It noted that, in a normal school setting, the vocational component of students' programmes should not be expected to exceed around 20% of teaching time, but did not recommend any specific action to restrict how much time should be devoted to vocational programmes for some, or all, students.

On 12 May the Government response to the Wolf review accepted all the recommendations in full, and set out a timeline for implementing the recommendations.

The Wolf report on vocational education and the Government response, including key implementation milestones, can be found here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/qualificationsandlearning/a0074953/review-of-vocational-education-the-wolf-report

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer Question 80983 tabled on 9 November 2011 for named day answer on 14 November 2011. [82207]

Tim Loughton: Parliamentary question 80983 was replied to on 21 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 70W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Cluster Munitions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy not to invite to UK arms trade events any country that has not signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions and which either has stockpiles of cluster munitions, or has companies involved in the manufacture or trade in cluster munitions or components; and if he will make a statement. [81339]

Mr Prisk: This Government considers carefully which overseas Governments may receive invitations to send official delegations to UK defence and security exhibitions. All relevant factors are taken into consideration.

EU Social Chapter

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of proposals to withdraw from the European Social Chapter; and if he will place any such assessment in the Library. [81446]

Mr Davey: None. There is no distinct "European Social Chapter"; the EU's provisions for social and related matters are integrated into the treaties.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received since May 2010 calling for the UK to withdraw from the European Social Chapter; and if he will place a copy of any such representations in the Library. [81665]

Mr Davey: There is no distinct "European Social Chapter"; the EU's provisions for social and related matters are integrated into the treaties. This Department regularly receives representations from stakeholders on matters concerning aspects of European employment law. It would not be practical to deposit all such representations in the Libraries of the House.

European Agency and Temporary Workers Directive

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal opinion in respect of the May 2008 agreement between the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress regarding the implementation of the regulations pertaining to the European agency and temporary workers directive and the Government's options on amending these; and if he will make a statement. [82196]

Mr Davey: I will not be disclosing any legal advice relating to the May 2008 agreement between the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress due to legal professional privilege.

I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 19 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 49-50WS, which sets out the reason for my decision not to amend the regulations prior to implementation due to the clear risk of undermining the 12-week qualifying period.

Export Controls

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to promote the addition of *(a)* electric-shock stun-cuffs and other body worn electric-shock devices and *(b)* spiked batons and spiked shields to the list of

items in Council Regulation (EC) No 1236/2005 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment or torture that are prohibited from import or export; and if he will promote inclusion in the regulation of enhanced controls on drugs used for carrying out the death penalty by lethal injection; and if he will make a statement. [81338]

Mr Prisk: The Committee for Common Rules for Exports of Products (Council Regulation (EC) No 1236/2005) met on 16 November 2011 to discuss the Commission's proposals to add electric-shock cuffs and other body worn electric-shock devices and spiked batons to the list of items whose import and export are prohibited, and to add specified drugs that could be used for the purposes of execution by lethal injection to the list of items for which an export licence is required. The Government supported the proposals. Subject to final approval of the member states the Commission indicated that they intend to bring the amendments into force before the end of this year.

Export Credits Guarantees

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to work with the Paris Club to carry out a public audit of the debt owed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD); and if he will undertake an immediate review of ECGD-backed loans for arms sales to undemocratic governments. [81331]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to carry out an audit of debts owed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) or undertake a review of ECGD support for defence exports. UK Export Finance does not offer support for defence exports unless the Export Control Organisation (ECO) of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is willing to issue an export licence where this is required. The ECO is the body that decides whether a defence export is permissible, consistent with relevant legislation and Government policy. In doing so, it takes account of a number of factors, including international relations, security and human rights. Relevant departments across Whitehall, but not including UK Export Finance, are involved in its decision-taking.

Health: Working Hours

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on productivity of changes in the level of occupational health research. [82057]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has not made any assessment on the effect of changes in the level of occupational health research on productivity. The level of funding by the Medical Research Council, one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research, on occupational health research has not changed significantly over the past five years.

Local Economic Partnership

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget is for each local economic partnership covering *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham for each of the next five years. [82777]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) can draw on a variety of funding sources, including from local authorities and other partners. In relation to central Government funding LEPs can apply for money to support their development through this Department's Capacity and Start-up Funds. They were all also recently awarded an indicative allocation from the Growing Places Fund.

LEPs can also apply for funding to support specific programmes or projects, for example, the Regional Growth Fund or through the Technology Strategy Board. Partnerships can also access European funding streams or may receive financial support from local authorities.

The Department has made no projections as to how much funding each local enterprise partnership will receive over the next five years.

National Savings and Investments: Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with National Savings and Investment on its decision to stop selling its products through the Post Office network. [82153]

Mr Davey: National Savings and Investments (NS&I) is an executive agency of Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT). As such, the Department has held discussions with both NS&I and HMT on the future provision of NS&I products through the Post Office network.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of National Savings and Investment's contract with Post Office Ltd in the last year for which figures are available; [82154]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the viability of the Post Office network of the decision by National Savings and Investment to stop selling products through the Post Office; [82155]

(3) whether Premium Bonds will continue to be offered through the Post Office following the withdrawal of National Savings and Investments products; [82220]

(4) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of sales commission on National Savings and Investments products for the Post Office in the latest period for which figures are available. [82222]

Mr Davey: Information relating to contractual arrangements and the data requested is an operational matter for the Post Office, taking account of their commercial relationship National Savings and Investments. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of National Savings and Investments products were managed by *(a)* post, *(b)* telephone, *(c)* online and *(d)* through post offices in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [82217]

Miss Chloe Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The proportion of National Savings and Investments products transacted by *(a)* post, *(b)* telephone, *(c)* online and *(d)* through post offices from 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011 by their customers is set out in the following table.

	Percentage
By post to NS&I	43
Telephone	9
Online	18
Over the counter at the post office	18
Picking up a brochure at PO, and sending application to NS&I	19

The percentage figures do not sum to 100% because customers may have used more than one channel to transact with NS&I during the year as other available sales or transaction channels are available, eg, BACS payments or by using ATMs.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value he puts on National Savings and Investments transactions administered through the post office network in the latest period for which figures are available. [82221]

Miss Chloe Smith: I have been asked to reply.

In the financial year 2010-11, £3.06 billion of NS&I sales were made at post office counters and £2.03 billion of NS&I sales were made by customers picking up an NS&I brochure at a post office and then sending this directly to NS&I. £227.8 million of repayments were made via the Post Office.

Over the same period £3.12 billion of sales were made by customers directly via NS&I's website; £1.95 billion directly with NS&I by telephone; and £1.78 billion directly with NS&I by post.

Postal Services

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what additional services the Government has begun to provide through the Post Office network as part of its objective to make the network a front office for Government since May 2010. [82216]

Mr Davey: This Government were clear in their November 2010 policy statement that it supports Post Office Ltd's ambition to provide more services on behalf of local and national Government.

Post Office Ltd has shown good progress against this ambition. For example, it has recently begun providing services to Westminster council after bidding successfully for a contract for a number of 'front office' services; it has worked with The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on three pilots; and has recently begun providing Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on behalf of the Public Carriage Office. It has also been successful in securing additional services which have not yet gone live—for example, face-to-face registrations for some local authority staff.

Science: Inflation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect of inflation on his Department's science budget. [79763]

Mr Willetts: At the time of the settlement, the Government were using the GDP deflator which came close to 10% by the end of the last spending review period in 2010. General inflation forecasts will vary over time and calculations of specific inflation rates in particular sectors will give variations around those forecasts.

The Government have also set efficiency targets for the Science and Research budget. These savings will total £324 million by the last year of the spending review period for 2011-15. Given the ring-fenced position of the Science and Research resource budget, these savings will be reinvested in science and research and will allow further spend on the highest priorities. This equates to about 7% of savings.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme earning less than £15,000 per year *(a)* are female and *(b)* work part-time. [81571]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* There are 57,904 female active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS), earning less than £15,000 per year, and of those 53,833 work part-time. Membership numbers of the PCSPS and a breakdown between active, deferred and pensioner members can be found in Cabinet Office Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts 2009-10, copies of which are in the Library.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme earn no more than £15,000 per year. [81573]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* There are 70,732 active members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS), earning no more than £15,000 per year. Membership numbers of the PCSPS and a breakdown between active, deferred and pensioner members can be found in Cabinet Office Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts 2009-10, copies of which are in the Library.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of a civil servant's pay is deducted in pension contributions. [81876]

Mr Maude: Pensions, including the level of employee contribution, form part of the remuneration package. Remuneration for the civil service is intended to be sufficient to attract and retain staff while providing good value for money to the taxpayer.

Civil servants pay pension contributions of either 1.5% or 3.5% of pay, depending on which section of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme they are a member of. The Government have already announced that they intend to increase contributions by an average of 3.2% of pay, and a consultation closed on 20 October on the first year of increases to apply from April 2012.

Metastatic Melanoma

Pauline Latham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people died from metastatic melanoma by each *(a)* cancer network and *(b)* primary care trust in each year since 1997. [82638]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people died from metastatic melanoma by each (a) cancer network and (b) primary care trust in each year since 1997 (82638)

It is not possible to identify the stage of a tumour (whether it was localised or had spread to other parts of the body) from the information collected at death registration. However, it is likely that almost all deaths from malignant melanoma are due to metastatic disease.

Tables 1 and 2 provide the number of deaths where malignant melanoma of skin was the underlying cause of death for (a) cancer networks (Table 1) and (b) primary care organisations (Table 2) in England, for 1997 to 2010 (the latest year available).

Deaths from melanomas of the skin of genital organs and melanomas of sites other than the skin cannot be identified separately in mortality data and are therefore excluded from the figures in Tables 1 and 2. However, the number of such deaths is likely to be relatively small.

Copies of Tables 1 and 2 have been placed in the House of Commons library.

Young People: Voluntary Work

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of those starting National Citizen Service did not complete their full course; and if he will make a statement. [81925]

Mr Hurd: An independent evaluation of the National Citizen Service pilot programme is currently collecting and analysing data on participation rates across the twelve pilot schemes in 2011.

This work will conclude shortly. I will then be able to provide the House with a full update.

HEALTH

Drug and Alcohol: Dependent Mothers

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were born to *(a)* drug- and *(b)* alcohol-dependent mothers by region in each of the last 10 years. [81621]

Anne Milton: The following tables provide data on delivery episodes for children born to *(a)* drug- and *(b)* alcohol-dependent mother, by strategic health authority of residence for the years 2000-01 to 2009-10.

Count of deliveries by drug dependent mothers (excluding alcohol and tobacco) by strategic health authority of residence, 2005-06 to 2000-01

Code	Strategic health authority	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	42	31	41	31	19	11
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	2	3	3	2	1	0
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	10	16	11	6	1	2
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	8	7	6	6	4	5
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	15	15	3	10	2	0
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	16	6	6	7	8	1
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	7	2	8	4	6	2
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	3	8	7	6	5	4
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	59	53	39	22	12	7
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	85	73	52	28	23	24
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	25	20	22	12	5	3
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	45	33	45	39	3	2
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	55	80	68	41	6	4
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	106	85	78	21	8	11
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	101	111	64	59	26	11
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	16	17	14	11	9	7
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	9	9	8	1	1	0
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	16	21	20	23	4	7
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	42	32	33	21	4	8
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	37	38	36	26	0	0
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	19	16	15	9	1	2
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	4	8	5	11	4	4
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	113	111	75	59	32	38

Count of deliveries by drug dependent mothers (excluding alcohol and tobacco) by strategic health authority of residence, 2005-06 to 2000-01

Code	Strategic health authority	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	51	58	44	46	21	12
025	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	15	20	28	13	11	7
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	65	55	43	28	1	2
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	158	135	80	42	5	7
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	35	32	18	8	0	1
	Other/unknown	13	12	6	14	1	2
	Total	1,175	1,109	878	607	223	184

Count of deliveries by drug dependent mothers (excluding alcohol and tobacco) by strategic health authority of residence, 2009-10 to 2006-07

Code	Strategic health authority	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	132	111	125	157
031	North West Strategic Health Authority	302	245	273	296
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	282	242	250	215
Q33	East Midland Strategic Health Authority	165	132	144	78
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	300	291	298	274
035	East of England Strategic Health Authority	80	75	61	74
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	90	62	62	37
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	67	60	54	45
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	48	35	28	22
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	112	85	63	60
	Other/unknown	13	14	24	21
	Total	1,591	1,352	1,382	1,279

Count of deliveries by alcohol dependent mothers strategic health authority of residence, 2000-01 to 2005-06

Code	Strategic health authority	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	1	2	2	2	0	2
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	0	0	0	0	1	0
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	1	1	0	1	0	0
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	0	1	0	0	0	0
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	0	1	0	1	0	0
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	1	1	0	0	1	1
O07	South East London Strategic HA	0	1	0	0	0	0
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	1	1	1	1	2	0
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	4	2	5	0	0	0
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	2	2	0	0	0	0
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	3	2	2	0	0	0
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	1	0	3	0	0	0
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	4	2	0	1	0	0
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	4	9	2	2	0	0
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	4	1	1	1	1	1
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	1	2	0	0	0	0
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	1	0	0	0	0	0
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	2	5	1	1	2	0
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	0	1	3	3	1	0
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	1	0	0	1	0	0
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	0	0	1	0	0	1
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	0	0	1	1	0	0
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	19	4	4	1	1	2
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	3	2	3	1	5	0
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	1		1	0	1	1
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	0	4	0	2	1	0
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	4	3	0	3	2	0
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	3	2	1	0	0	0
	Other/Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	62	49	31	22	18	9

Count of deliveries by alcohol dependent mothers strategic health authority of residence, 2009-10 to 2006-07

Code	*Strategic health authority*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	15	13	23	16
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	21	18	20	12
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	15	21	22	16
033	East Midland Strategic Health Authority	7	7	8	7
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	10	17	9	10
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	6	5	2	5
036	London Strategic Health Authority	14	6	5	8
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	8	4	6	4
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	3	4	1	1
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	7	3	5	3
	Other/unknown	1	2	0	0
	Total	107	100	101	82

Notes:
1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
Type of episode used:
2 = Delivery episode
5 = Other delivery event
2. Secondary diagnosis
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
3. All Diagnoses count of episodes
ICD-10 code used:
Z37. Outcome of delivery (must always been found in the first secondary position)
F10.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, dependence syndrome
F11.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids, dependence syndrome
F12.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids, dependence syndrome
F13.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics, dependence syndrome
F14.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to. use of cocaine, dependence syndrome
F15.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine, dependence syndrome
F16.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens, dependence syndrome
F18.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents, dependence syndrome
F19.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances, dependence syndrome
The above codes indicate addiction to all types of drugs. For example F11.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids, would include addiction to Heroin and also Opioids found in prescription drugs. Code F19.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances is only used when patterns of psychoactive substance-taking are chaotic and indiscriminate or when the contributions of different psychoactive substances are inextricably mixed.
4. SHA/PCT of residence
The strategic health authority (SHA) or primary care trust (PCX) containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.
5. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
6. Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
7. Activity included
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
8.For all years the total number of cases is higher when looking at the total broken down by drug use compared to the drug grouping figures. This is because there will be several cases where the mother has been diagnosed as using more than one type of drug and those drugs have been recognised.
It should be noted that count of deliveries will not give a full count of births, as twins would count as only one delivery.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Dental Services: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to NHS dental services in each of the last five years. [81921]

Mr Simon Burns: The primary care dental allocations for the last five years, plus the current year, are as set out in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally by primary care trusts (PCTs) to supplement the resources available for dentistry. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other national health service resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT and are recorded in the notes to PCT accounts.

Primary dental service net funding allocations

	Net allocations (£ million)
2007-08	1,872.44
2008-09	2,081.00
2009-10	2,257.00
2010-11	2,269.95
2011-12	2,318.54

Note:
For the years up until 2011-12 the dental primary care allocation included funding for dental vocational trainees. For 2011-12 this funding element, some £81 million net of patient charges, was separately allocated as part of a larger regional workforce funding stream. To allow comparisons, this has been included in the national figures above.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration is of each private finance initiative contract managed by his Department. [82209]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on signed private finance initiative (PFI) projects that were signed prior to 16 March 2011 is available on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

No national health service PFI projects have been signed since 16 March 2011.

In addition to listing the project name and responsible department the information available includes the capital value of the asset and associated unitary charge payments, the date the contract was signed and the operational period of the contract.

Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to support the establishment of citizen commissions to advise, report and make decisions on issues affecting people with diabetes as part of his proposed health and wellbeing boards; and if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that there is adequate youth representation on such commissions and boards. [R] [82020]

Paul Burstow: Health and wellbeing boards will promote joined-up commissioning that will support integrated provision of services across health, public health and social care. This should mean that groups such as diabetes service users should experience health and care services that are better joined up and better meet their needs as individuals.

Health and wellbeing boards will have a legal duty to involve users and the public when developing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategy and to pay due regard to the public sector Equality Duty. We also expect local HealthWatch organisations to use their membership on health and wellbeing boards to play a role in ensuring the voices of the whole community including young people are heard and fed into the work of the boards. We are exploring with early implementer health and wellbeing boards how they can embed public engagement in their work, including with young people, and with some HealthWatch pathfinders who are focusing on how local HealthWatch can be most effective in understanding and representing the voice of the whole community including young people.

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure sufficient numbers of paediatric diabetes specialist nurses and diabetes nurses to meet the needs of people with diabetes. [R] [82021]

Mr Simon Burns: Workforce planning is a matter for local national health service organisations. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and will commission the required number of training places to develop the workforce to meet those needs.

A safety and quality assurance process has been developed to ensure that any significant change proposed in the clinical workforce has involved clinicians at all levels, maximising on their engagement, leadership and sign off.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training his Department provides to *(a)* diabetes specialist nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* other healthcare professionals on provision of support and medical assistance to adolescents and young adults with diabetes. [R] [82022]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies for the professions concerned. Through their role as the custodians of standards in education and practice, these organisations are committed to ensuring high quality patient care is delivered by health professionals and that health care professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice, including diabetes.

Diabetes: Nurses

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to develop and implement a standardised national competency framework for diabetes specialist nurses. [R] [81535]

Anne Milton: It is the role of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to set standards of education, training, conduct and performance so that nurses and midwives can deliver high quality healthcare consistently throughout their careers. Higher Educational Institutes are responsible for running educational programmes which are approved by the NMC. Within this framework employers can expand nursing practice.

In addition to the responsibilities of the NMC, from 1 April 2013, subject to parliamentary approval, Health Education England will bring together all the relevant parties, particularly employers, to oversee and shape the development of the health and care workforce and to promote high quality education and training which is responsive to the changing needs of patients and local communities.

The Government consider that diabetes specialist nurses are an essential part of the diabetes specialist team and have a valuable part to play in supporting people with diabetes. It is local healthcare organisations, with their knowledge of the healthcare needs of their local populations, that are best placed to determine the work force required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce a separate tariff for *(a)* initiation of patients onto insulin pumps and insulin therapy, *(b)* commencing blood glucose monitoring and *(c)* other procedures carried out by diabetes specialist nurses and not currently recognised in existing payment mechanisms. [R] [81558]

Mr Simon Burns: There is currently a non-mandatory best practice tariff for paediatric diabetes. Details can be found in the "Payment by Results Guidance for 2011-12", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This is being further developed for 2012-13. It has been designed to support access to consistent high quality care.

A range of other activities relating to the provision of care for diabetes patients are covered by the national mandatory tariff. Activity that is outside the scope of the tariff, such as services provided in a community setting, are reimbursed through prices that are agreed locally.

Insulin pumps are currently excluded from tariff and paid for at locally negotiated prices to ensure that providers are adequately reimbursed.

We are considering the development of a best practice tariff for pump therapy.

Dialysis Machines

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the long-term provision of dialysis facilities. [81922]

Mr Simon Burns: Ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for dialysis is the responsibility of specialised national health service commissioners who commission these services.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans to increase the provision and availability of home dialysis equipment. [81923]

Mr Simon Burns: Home therapies (peritoneal dialysis and home haemodialysis) offer huge benefits for kidney patients and are more cost-effective treatments than haemodialysis in a hospital or satellite unit. However, they are not suited to everybody. We are working to develop a tariff to incentivise offering patients the choice of home haemodialysis where appropriate and we expect that the tariff price will include an element for capital costs such as the cost of home dialysis machines.

Food: Taxation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of applying additional taxation to foods which are high in saturated fats. [82393]

Anne Milton: We are keeping the international evidence on the impact of fiscal measures under review.

General Practitioners

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that his Department's guidance on removing patients from GP lists is followed by GPs. [81363]

Mr Simon Burns: The procedures which general practitioner (GP) contractors must follow when considering removal of a patient from their list are set out in regulations and are included in their national health service contract with their primary care trust. It is the responsibility of the primary care trust to take any resulting action should a contractor not follow these procedures.

Under the terms of its contract, a GP practice may remove any patient from its list of NHS patients if it believes that it has reasonable grounds for doing so, for example, if a patient has moved out of the practice area or has been violent.

No one should be left without access to a GP practice. If anyone who has been removed from a practice list has difficulty in finding another practice, the primary care trust may assign them to another GP contractor's list.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered with GPs in *(a)* NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, *(b)* NHS Medway, *(c)* NHS West Kent and *(d)* England in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [81551]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is set out in the following table, which has been supplied by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care:

GP registered patients in selected primary care trusts (PCTs) in England as at 2008-10

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	752,151	763,052	769,742
Medway PCT	274,190	280,008	281,320
West Kent PCT	695,807	700,851	707,200
England	53,944,734	54,609,309	55,019,190

Health and Social Care Bill 2010-12

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Information Commissioner's recent ruling on his Department's strategic risk register for the Health and Social Care Bill, if he will publish the register *(a)* immediately or *(b)* before the deadline for any related amendments to be tabled for the Lords Report Stage of the Bill; and if he will make a statement. [82212]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is considering its response to the Information Commissioner's decision of 2 November 2011 to require the release of the register, and expects to respond by early December.

Health Professions: Pay

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid to suspended medical staff in each of the last five years. [81905]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the form requested. According to data held by the National Clinical Assessment Service, the number of doctors who were excluded or suspended at the end of each of the last five financial years, together with estimates of the number of working weeks lost as a result, were as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total number of exclusions and suspensions[1] at end March	102	107	106	107	94
Estimated number of working weeks lost	5,370	5,420	5,930	6,060	5,220

[1] Doctors in the hospital and community health service (exclusions) and in general practice (suspensions) in England

Injuries: Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether data on the cost to the public purse of treating dog attacks is held by individual health trusts; [81848]

(2) what assessment he has made of long-term trends in the cost to the public purse of treating injuries caused by dog attacks. [81849]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not require individual national health service trusts to report on costs associated with treating patients admitted to hospital as a result of a dog attack. However, the hon. Member may wish to contact trusts directly to confirm whether they hold this information.

The Department has not made an assessment of trends in respect of the costs of treating these injuries. However, Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been working closely with Government and non-Government organisations to prepare a package of measures to encourage more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks. This work is nearing completion and an announcement will be made by that Department shortly.

Mercury: Health Hazards

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of any ban on the use of dental amalgam; and if he will make a statement. [R] [81724]

Mr Simon Burns: A ban would be detrimental to the delivery of high-quality dental services particularly where patients required replacement of existing amalgam fillings. In February 2009, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment programme agreed on the need to develop a global legally binding instrument that

"protects human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimising and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global anthropogenic release to air water and land".

The work to prepare this instrument is being undertaken by an intergovernmental negotiating committee. We are seeking to reach an agreement by which dental amalgam will continue to be available within any additional measures to control the disposal of waste and emissions.

Muscular Dystrophy

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on progress in setting up a managed clinical network for neuromuscular conditions in each NHS region; and if he will make a statement. [82066]

Paul Burstow: During 2010-11, the 10 regional Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) and National Specialised Commissioning team (NSCT) collaborated to produce a detailed work plan for neuromuscular services.

This neuromuscular workstream is led by East of England SCG working with the individual SCG/NSCT neuromuscular leads. In July, a more formal group was established and the existing work plan was enlarged to include communications and engagement.

A workshop to which patients, carers and support organisations have been invited is scheduled for later this year.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to concerns about adverse experiences of individual NHS staff and instances where an NHS trust has followed discipline or dismissal of a staff member by secret settlements with compromise agreement gagging provision; and if he will make a statement. [81626]

Mr Simon Burns: All non-contractual 'special' severance payments for employees or ex employees, who may have been dismissed following disciplinary action, must be approved by HM Treasury. NHS trusts are required to ensure that any proposals to make such payments are sent to the Department of Health initially for scrutiny.

The use of a confidentiality clause within a compromise agreement or a contract of employment is void insofar as it purports to preclude the employee from making a protected disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA) i.e. the protection of 'whistle blowers'. Therefore, payments made to employees under a compromise agreement with a confidentiality clause that seeks to prevent an employee or an ex employee from making a disclosure under PIDA would be void.

Before an employee considers signing a compromise agreement, which may or may not contain a confidentiality clause, the employer is required to pay for the employee to have independent legal advice on the terms of the agreement.

NHS: Pay

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS employees of each sex had an annual salary *(a)* below £15,000 per year and *(b)* between £15,000 and £21,000 per year in the latest period for which figures are available. [82227]

Mr Simon Burns: Validated information to this level of detail is not held centrally. However, it is possible to make the following estimates using the information available.

The number of employees with a salary below £15,000 per year is estimated at around 95,000. Of which, around 72,000 are female and around 23,000 are male.

The number of employees with salary between £15,000 and £21,000 per year is estimated at around 320,000. Of which, around 260,000 are female and around 60,000 are male.

Notes:

1. Figures are as of June 2011.

2. Estimates relate to headcount NHS Hospital and Community Health Services staff. Bank staff are not considered.

3. 'Salary' is taken to be full-time equivalent basic pay per year. This is consistent with the criteria used to identify lower earners eligible for the minimum £250 pay awards.

4. Numbers in each salary band are estimated using unvalidated data on the distribution of staff across agenda for change payscale points from the electronic staff record (ESR) data warehouse.

5. The ESR data warehouse is a monthly snapshot of the live ESR system, which is a payroll and human resources system containing staff records for NHS employed staff in England.

It contains records on all NHS staff except for those in the following groups:

General practitioners (GPs), GP practice staff and other primary care providers e.g. dentists;

Foundation Trusts (Moorfields Eye hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust);

and those staff groups affected by Transforming Community Services where the service is now provided by a non-NHS organisation.

NHS: Pensions

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS employees have received more than £30,800 in employer pension contributions in each financial year since 1997. [82229]

Mr Simon Burns: Reliable information, is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Publications

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that information for patients is provided in accessible formats for *(a)* non-English speakers, *(b)* partially-sighted people and *(c)* those with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [81364]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department recognises the benefits of good quality accessible information for patients. The national health service, third parties performing public functions on its behalf and the Department are already subject to the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 which requires public authorities to pay due regard to eliminating discrimination and advancing equality of opportunity. In practice this means that the Department and NHS organisations provide information to patients in alternative formats and languages where appropriate.

As part of the Department's wider ambition to give people more information and control over their care, our consultation document "Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution", published in October 2010, sought views on how to improve the accessibility of information to patients, including those requiring information in languages other than English and those using learning disabilities services. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The Department's Information Strategy will respond to that consultation and is planned to be published in the winter.

NHS: Reorganisation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's risk assessment of the reforms proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill. [81500]

Mr Simon Burns: Following a Freedom of Information request to release the Transition risk register and a decision by the Department to withhold it, the Department is considering its response to the Information Commissioner's decision of 2 November 2011 to require its release, and expects to respond by early December.

The Department published Impact Assessments accompanying the Health and Social Care Bill in January 2011, which were revised in September 2011 ('Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, Health and Social Care Bill 2011 Impact Assessments'). These included an assessment of risk.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the Information Commissioner's decision on the disclosure of his Department's risk assessment of the reforms proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill; [81501]

(2) whether he plans to comply with the Information Commissioner's decision on the disclosure of risk assessments relating to the Health and Social Care Bill. [81505]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is considering its response to the Information Commissioner's decision of 2 November to require its release, and expects to respond by early December.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what risk assessments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* independent consultants contracted by his Department have undertaken on the potential effects of the Health and Social Care Bill. [81502]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published Impact Assessments accompanying the Health and Social Care Bill in January 2011, which were revised in September 2011 ('Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, Health and Social Care Bill 2011 Impact Assessments'). These included an assessment of risk. It also maintains a register of transition risks associated with the Health and Care reforms that is updated regularly. In addition, in common with other Government Departments, the Department has commissioned a number of Office of Government Commerce Gateway reviews to provide additional assurance external to the Department in specific areas of the reform programme. More reviews are planned for the new year.

Nurses: Workplace Assault

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department has put in place to provide support for nurses who have been assaulted in the workplace. [81919]

Mr Simon Burns: Each national health service body has a duty to address the risks of violence to their staff and to support staff who are assaulted.

Many NHS bodies provide employee assistance programmes for their staff, through which employees who have been assaulted can access confidential counselling.

NHS Protect is the body responsible for leading work to tackle violence against NHS staff. The published agreement between NHS Protect, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service outlines how the parties should work together to provide support for the victims of assault. This includes keeping victims updated on the progress police investigation, decisions on charging or prosecution, consideration of out of court disposals, such as conditional cautions and penalty notices for disorder and the provision of personal impact statements from victims of assault prior to sentencing.

Each NHS body must nominate a local specialist to manage security locally. This role includes identifying the level of support required by victims of assault and working with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to support them. NHS Protect supports the NHS locally by providing training on all aspects of security management, including support for victims of assault.

Nutrition: Children

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce the exposure of children to marketing of unhealthy food and drink. [82394]

Anne Milton: The United Kingdom already has an extensive system of controls on marketing of foods that are high in salt, fat or sugar to children. A recent review by Ofcom indicates that children's exposure to television advertising for these foods has fallen by 37% since the introduction of controls and that advertising of unhealthy foods has been eliminated during children's airtime.

The Department will continue to keep this area under review, including through discussion in the Food Network of the Public Health Responsibility Deal in the coming year.

Obesity: Health Services

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on *(a)* the effect of obesity on the NHS and *(b)* how effective care can be given to patients suffering from obesity-related health problems. [81598]

Mr Simon Burns: Excess weight is a major cause of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer and is estimated to cost the national health service over £5 billion a year.

The care and treatment of patients who are suffering from conditions as a result of being overweight or obese is a matter for their clinical team.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Policy Research Programme (PRP) fund a wide range of research relating to the effect of obesity on the NHS and care for patients with diseases and conditions for which obesity is a risk factor.

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) can be found on the CCF website at:

www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/FundedProgrammes.aspx

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Centre (NETSCC) can be found on the NETSCC website at;

www.netscc.ac.uk/

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Details of research awards managed by the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre (TCC) can be found on the TCC website at:

www.nihrtcc.nhs.uk/

Details of research funded by the PRP are available on the Department's website at:

http://prp.dh.gov.uk/category/funded-research/

Obesity: Surgery

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* gastric bands, *(b)* each public health campaign relating to obesity and *(c)* other NHS weight loss services in each financial year since 1997. [82070]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold information on the cost to primary care trusts of providing patients with a gastric band or of providing weight management services.

The Change4Life campaign was launched in January 2009 to raise awareness of diet and physical activity, and to create a mass movement to reduce obesity levels. Approximately £50 million was spent on the Change4Life campaign in 2008-09 and 2009-10, and around £10 million was spent in 2010-11. The budget for 2011-12 is £8.5 million.

Prior to 2009, the Government have a range of initiatives to provide individuals with information on diet, and physical activity to prevent obesity.

Patients: Per Capita Costs

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure per capita was in NHS Medway in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [81525]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following table.

Amount spent per head of population in 2008-09 to 2010-11 by Medway primary care trust (PCT)

	£
2008-09	1,331
2009-10	1,581
2010-11	1,644

Notes:
1. Expenditure per capita is interpreted to mean the total revenue expenditure of the PCT (the net operating costs).
2. The net operating cost is taken from the audited summarisation schedules of Medway PCT for 2008-09 to 2010-11. This figure is divided by the PCT's resident population to derive the spend-per-head figures provided above.

Source:
Audited Summarisation Schedules

Physiotherapy: Eastern Region

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a referral for physiotherapy is *(a)* in Bedford, *(b)* in the East of England and *(c)* nationally. [81888]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is currently not collected centrally. The allied health professional (AHP) Referral to Treatment (RTT) Guide, published in 2010, sets out a framework of rules for clock starts and clock stops to measure waiting times for patients when accessing national health service AHP services including physiotherapy.

Nationally, AHP RTT data collection and reporting was due to be mandated from April 2011, however, as part of the public health spending reviews, the implementation date for collecting data is being reviewed. In the meantime, it is expected that local NHS organisations will collect this data locally to help them identify where service improvement is most needed.

Work between the Department and the NHS Information Centre is in place to ensure the development and mandate of data sets by which the AHP RTT data collected locally can be flowed to a central source for national reporting.

The Allied Health Professional Referral to Treatment Guide can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_115297.pdf

Postnatal Depression

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of support offered to women with postnatal health problems. [81920]

Anne Milton: It is for the national health service locally to ensure appropriate facilities, services and networks are in place to meet the needs of their local population.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published clinical guidelines on postnatal care in 2006 which set out the core care that women and babies should be offered during the first six to eight weeks after the birth. Every mother and baby will have an individual plan of care which may include additional care to that in the core guidance.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Standards for Maternity Care (published in 2008) state that all health professionals involved in the care of women following childbirth should refer women for support according to their needs.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to review the prescription charges system in the next 12 months; whether any such review will involve consultation with *(a)* patients' groups and *(b)* charities; and if he will make a statement. [81411]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) on 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 856-57W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the additional carbon emissions which would be generated by an additional 10 million people projected to reside in the UK by 2033; and if he will estimate the additional renewable energy capacity which would be needed to abate the emissions arising from such a rise in population and maintain emissions at their current level. [81275]

Gregory Barker: The latest official Government projections by DECC for greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide were published in October 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

These provide projections for the period up to 2030. Projections beyond 2030 are not available. The projections assume that the UK population increases by 6.8 million between 2010 and 2030. This is the ONS principal 2008 based population projection, low migration variant. The 2008 based population projections were used because these were the latest available at the time of publication. The low migration variant assumption is used because this is the population assumption used by the Office for Budget Responsibility for GDP growth projections which also feed into the emissions projections. Projections under a scenario in which the UK population increased by 10 million are not available.

Over the period 2010 to 2030 emissions are projected to fall by 168 $MtCO_2e$ from 586 $MtCO_2e$ to 418 $MtCO_2e$. Carbon dioxide emissions are projected to fall by 146 $MtCO_2$ from 496 $MtCO_2$ to 350 $MtCO_2$ over the same period. The projected fall is attributable to a range of factors including policy impacts on energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy. Under the central scenario assumptions in the emissions projections, renewable energy demand is projected to increase by 23 Mega tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) from 8.2 Mtoe to 30.9 Mtoe between 2010 and 2030. Renewables electricity generation capacity is projected to increase by 33 GW from 9 GW to 42 GW over the same period. As explained in the report, the generation and capacity mix is dependent on a number of assumptions. Other assumptions would lead to projected electricity demand being met by different capacity and generation mixes.

The projections show that, under central assumptions, existing policies, including those that support increased use of renewable energy, are sufficient to ensure emissions continue to fall up until 2030 despite the projected increase in population of 6.8 million.

Energy: Business

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of planned mitigation measures for energy-intensive industries facing increased energy prices as a result of the introduction of the carbon floor price; [81904]

(2) what lessons his Department has learnt from Germany on ensuring that energy-intensive industries can operate competitively in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [81906]

(3) which energy-intensive industries will receive mitigation to counteract the effect of the carbon floor price on their production costs; and what plans there are to extend measures to gas-intensive industries in the future. [81908]

Gregory Barker: I am working closely with Government colleagues to deliver the commitment the Government gave earlier this year to create a package of measures to support those energy-intensive industries whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies. We will announce details before the end of the year.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what plans he has to make the UK a more competitive environment for energy-intensive industries following the Minister for Climate Change's recent visit to Germany; [82061]

(2) whether mitigation measures will enable the UK's energy-intensive industries to compete on a level playing field internationally following the introduction of the carbon price floor; and what plans there are to extend such measures to the UK's gas-intensive industries in the future. [82062]

Gregory Barker: I am working closely with Government colleagues to deliver the commitment the Government gave earlier this year to create a package of measures to support those energy-intensive industries whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies. We will announce details before the end of the year.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost per household was of the feed-in tariff scheme between April 2010 and October 2011. [81078]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem estimates that the cost of the FITs scheme for 2010-11 was £14.4 million. Based on 26.3 million domestic customers, and domestic supply representing 38% of total electricity supply this would have added approximately 21p to a domestic consumer's annual electricity bill for 2010-11.

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of how much the feed-in tariff added to energy prices in percentage terms in each of the last three years. [81384]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem estimates feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme costs for financial year 2010-11 (the first year of the FITs scheme) were £14.4 million. Based on 26.3 million domestic customers, and domestic supply representing 38% of total electricity supply this would have added approximately 21p (less than 1%) to a domestic consumer's annual electricity bill for 2010-11.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid to generators of renewable energy under his Department's feed-in tariff scheme in quarter *(a)* one and *(b)* two of 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [82187]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem estimates generation and export tariff payments (deemed and metered) for installations under the FIT scheme in Q1 of FIT Year 2 (April-June 2011) to be £10,101,593.26.

The corresponding data for Q2 of FITs Year 2 have not been published yet.

It should be noted that this estimate is based on payments data which were provided by FIT suppliers as part of the levelisation process. The periodic levelisation process uses payments claimed rather than payments made.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what workings and assumptions were used as the basis of the calculations included in paragraph 10 of his Department's press notice 11/091 of 31 October 2011 on the cost to consumers' annual domestic electricity bills in 2020 of supporting feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaic at the current rate. [82211]

Gregory Barker: The DECC press notice stated that supporting solar photovoltaic (PV) at the current rate would add £26 to the average domestic electricity bill in 2020.

This is based on our estimates that at current FITs tariff levels, £9.1/MWh would be added to the electricity price in 2020, and that average annual domestic electricity

consumption, accounting for energy efficiency savings as a result of energy and climate change policies[1], will be 2.9 MWh in 2020, Multiplying these together gives £26.

[1] Energy efficiency savings as a result of policies reducing electricity consumption in 2020 include Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), CERT Extension, Community Energy Saving Programme, Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation, Products Policy and Smart Meters.

Solar Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with representatives of the UK (i) solar and (ii) nuclear industry in the last 12 months. [82188]

Gregory Barker: Ministers and officials meet regularly with a range of stakeholders from both the solar photovoltaic and nuclear industry.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity demand could be met by solar PV. [82237]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stockton North (Alex Cunningham), on 21 November 2011, *Official* Report, column 43W.

In addition a report by Arup, published by DECC alongside the recent renewables obligation consultation[1], suggests that solar PV could generate up to 5.4 TWh by 2020 (and 19.2 TWh by 2030) in financially unconstrained scenarios. These would represent extremely ambitious level of deployment given the current costs and conversion efficiencies of solar PV, the land required and UK levels of insulation.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/conient/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many representations he has received from those *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the development of solar photovoltaic (i) sites and (ii) feed-in tariffs. [82251]

Gregory Barker: During the development of the consultation ministers and officials met with a range of stakeholders.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on *(a)* rates paid, *(b)* how long schemes have operated, *(c)* installed capacity and *(d)* how much average domestic power bills have increased in other EU member states with solar photovoltaic feed-in tariff schemes in the last five years. [82239]

Gregory Barker: The Department has met with and discussed as well as researched a range of other feed-in tariff schemes which are available in other countries. Every scheme is different and the amount of information available to us varies. We have rate information, length of operation and some data on installed capacity for a good number of schemes; all this information is publicly available. We do not hold any information on how much average domestic power bills have increased in other EU member states with solar photovoltaic feed-in tariff schemes in the last five years.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which representatives from the solar photovoltaic industry were consulted when drawing up the timetable for *(a)* the implementation of and *(b)* consultation on the new rates for solar photovoltaic tariffs. [82242]

Gregory Barker: During the development of the consultation ministers and officials met with a range of stakeholders from the solar photovoltaic industry.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 24 November 2011

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Leader of the House how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many of his staff are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82590]

Sir George Young: One official photograph of myself and one of the Deputy Leader of the House, my hon. Friend the Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr Heath), have been taken for use in official Government publications since May 2010. No members of my staff are tasked with taking official photographs of the ministerial or leadership team as part of their duties.

Public Reading Stage

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Leader of the House when he plans to bring forward proposals for a public reading stage for Bills. [81990]

Sir George Young: The Government are currently reviewing the operation of the public reading stage of the Protection of Freedoms Bill, and will then bring forward proposals for future public reading stages in due course.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

GPT: Corruption

Dr Huppert: To ask the Attorney-General by what date he plans to determine whether a full investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into allegations of bribery by GPT should be allowed to proceed. [82735]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) can confirm that a number of allegations have been made against GPT Special Project Management Ltd and that these allegations are being considered by them. The SFO has engaged with EADS, the parent company of GPT Special Project Management Ltd, on how these issues are to be addressed.

The decision on whether to proceed with an investigation is a matter for the Director of the SFO.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 166-8W, on animal experiments, how many enquiries were made in relation to *(a)* project and *(b)* personal licences including those which did not lead to a formal application in each of the last three years. [82488]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not record the information requested, only the number of formal licence applications. Typically most applications for licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act will involve discussions between the applicants and the Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate.

Arrest Warrants

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* people and *(b)* UK citizens were extradited from the UK to each EU member state under a European Arrest Warrant in 2010-11. [79003]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The information is as follows:

(a) In 2010-11 1,173 people were surrendered from the UK under an European Arrest Warrant (EAW). Of these, 48 were UK citizens. The following table breaks this down by member state.

Country	*Surrenders*
Austria	1
Belgium	10
Bulgaria	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	51
Estonia	3
Finland	2
France	10
Germany	27
Greece	9
Hungary	32
Ireland	21
Italy	12
Latvia	35
Lithuania	100
Malta	2
Netherlands	17
Poland	761
Portugal	7
Romania	35
Slovakia	16
Spain	17
Sweden	3
Total	1,173

(b) Out of the total 1,173 surrenders from the UK in 2010-11, 48 were UK citizens. They were surrendered to the following European Union member states:

Country	*Surrenders*
Belgium	3

Country	Surrenders
Czech Republic	1
France	2
Germany	7
Greece	8
Ireland	4
Malta	1
Netherlands	5
Poland	1
Spain	16
Total	48

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were extradited to the UK from each EU member state under a European Arrest Warrant in 2010-11. [79004]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* In 2010-11, 134 people were surrendered to the UK under an European Arrest Warrant (EAW). This included 133 extradited from other European Union member states and one from Gibraltar. The following table breaks this down by member state.

Country	Total
Austria	2
Belgium	2
Bulgaria	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	3
Estonia	1
Finland	1
France	14
Germany	4
Gibraltar	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	22
Italy	2
Lithuania	3
Malta	2
Netherlands	26
Poland	3
Portugal	2
Romania	4
Spain	38
Sweden	1
Total	134

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit has considered in each month since July 2011. [79434]

Damian Green: From July 2011 to October 2011 the UK Border Agency's (UKBA's) Case Assurance and Audit Unit has considered cases relating to 6,651 cases:

July: 1,753 cases

August: 1,471 cases

September: 1,785 cases

October: 1,642 cases.

Source:

Local Management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI team. It is not a national statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to maintain the current average time for processing an asylum case. [79440]

Damian Green: We have scrapped the system which encouraged case owners to concentrate on files that were easy to resolve and discouraged them from tackling older cases. We have introduced a new performance framework consisting of a wide range of performance indicators which will help us to monitor the overall health of the asylum system.

Reform of the asylum system has already begun, through our Asylum Improvement Programme which is exploring and implementing ways to improve the efficiency and speed of the asylum system while maintaining and improving quality. We have already seen improvement outcomes from this project.

The asylum system now consistently delivers in excess of 50% and often above 60% of decisions within 30 days of application, up from 21% in the May 2009 cohort. In excess of 90% of cases have a decision within six months.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 408W, on bovine tuberculosis: disease control, if she will reach an estimate of the costs of any police response and associated costs related to badger culling as part of her discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers. [79411]

Nick Herbert: We are in discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the police response and associated costs related to badger culling.

Civil Disorder

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to bring forward proposals for the repeal of section 2 (1) and (2) of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. [69760]

Nick Herbert: The Riot (Damages) Act is currently under review.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made with the review into policing methods following the disturbances of August 2011. [70489]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to look at the disorder, and for its findings to inform and support police guidance, tactics and public order policing resources.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of her Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [82571]

Damian Green: Official photographs were taken of Ministers during their first few days in office in May 2010. These are used for organisation charts, departmental publications and websites. Subsequently, official photographs were taken of Baroness Browning when she joined the ministerial team in May 2011. The images are available on flickr for use by the press and public.

In January 2011, official photographs were taken of the new Permanent Secretary.

Members of the communication team occasionally take photographs of Ministers or senior officials on visits, though this is not a formal part of their role.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings she has had with representatives of *(a)* social enterprises, *(b)* charities, *(c)* large private sector businesses and *(d)* small and medium-sized private sector businesses since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [75710]

Damian Green: Information on meetings with external interest groups is published by the Cabinet Office and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many holders of *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 visas previously held Tier 4 visas on (i) 1 September 2011, (ii) 1 September 2010 and (iii) 1 September 2009. [79439]

Damian Green: The information requested is not available in the required format and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Domestic Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the migrant domestic workers who were granted settlement in 2009 originally entered the UK on a *(a)* domestic worker (visitor), *(b)* domestic worker (other) and *(c)* domestic worker (diplomat) visa. [75671]

Damian Green: We are unable to specify the visa categories that individuals granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) originally entered the UK on, as this information is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency.

In 2009, 791[1] individuals were granted ILR as Overseas Domestic Workers in a Private Household.

In June 2011, the Government launched a consultation into, "Employment-Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers" This consultation document proposes changes to the settlement rights of those coming to the UK to work as well as changes to Tier 5 of the points-based system and the rules for overseas domestic workers.

Analysis to support the consultation outcome is due to be published in the near future.

[1] Figure taken from published Immigration Statistics April-June 2011

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2011/

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which colleges she has received representations on changes to the Tier 4 visa system; on what dates; if she will publish a summary of such representations; and what steps she proposes to take in response to those representations. [79710]

Damian Green: The Government held a public consultation on the student immigration system from December 2010 to January 2011. Over 30,851 responses were received through an online survey and over 300 were received by email or post during the consultation period. In March 2011 the Government published the questionnaire results, which summarised the representations received, alongside a Statement of Intent setting out proposals for reforms to Tier 4. There has been additional ongoing correspondence received from colleges in relation to these changes.

The Government responded to the concerns raised by the sector and made a number of changes to the proposals prior to changing the immigration rules.

Forensic Science Service

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she is taking any steps to ensure that staff currently working for the Forensic Science Service (FSS) are retained within the forensic science industry after the closure of the FSS. [79273]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Home Office continues to support the orderly transition of work from the Forensic Science Service (FSS). As part of this some of the current FSS staff will move to a range of other providers of forensic science services.

We have committed to update the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on this matter in June 2012.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the future costs of maintaining the National Forensic Science Archive. [79274]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* We are working closely with the Forensic Science Service and key partners to ensure that the Forensic Science

Service archive continues to meet the requirements of the criminal justice system. We will rigorously test costs to ensure the archive provides good value for money for the taxpayer. A full business case is currently being finalised.

Identity and Passport Service: Vacancies

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacancies there are in each office of the Identity and Passport Service; and how many jobs in each office are being advertised. [82490]

Damian Green: As part of the civil service recruitment freeze, there is no external recruitment of staff. Only existing civil servants can be recruited. As at 21 November 2011 the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) was actively recruiting for 114 vacancies, broken down as follows:

52 non-operational vacancies, largely based in London;

62 operational vacancies, of which:

five to be based at the new Newport Customer Service Centre,

six to replace natural turnover largely at the Peterborough area processing centre and records office,

51 to be based around the country at a number of different interview offices and flexible teams.

Of these, we currently have 31 advertisements covering 64 of the vacancies on the civil service jobs website for existing civil servants only with the remainder having proceeded to the post application stages.

Illegal Immigrants: Frontex

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of illegal migrants that were likely to have travelled to the UK that have been intercepted by Frontex in each year since it was established; and if she will make a statement. [82498]

Damian Green: The role of Frontex is to support the border management authorities of states through the coordination of operational activities. There is no distinction made between the numbers of migrants intercepted by officials of the host state as opposed to those intercepted by guest officers from other states taking part in a Frontex-co-ordinated operation. Undocumented migrants may be questioned about the route they have taken, facilitators used and their ultimate destination. Information gathered remains the property of the state hosting the Frontex operation and it is therefore not possible to estimate how many of those intercepted would have travelled to the UK.

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration case files have been open for *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years, *(d)* four years and *(e)* five years. [79438]

Damian Green: The number of immigration case files that have been open for:

(a) Less than one year is 101,428

(b) Between one and two years is 6,327

(c) Between two and three years is 8,057

(d) Between three and four years is 6,422

(e) Between four and five years is 4,064

This includes all open asylum and temporary and permanent migration cases.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resource funding she plans to allocate to the Independent Police Complaints Commission for the financial year 2012-13. [81349]

Nick Herbert: The Independent Police Complaints Commission has received an indicative resource budget from the Home Office of £31.45 million for 2012-13. Final budgets for 2012-13 will be confirmed in the new year.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a reply to his letter of 31 May 2011 on the Winsor review, reference M10105.11. [62238]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 3 October 2011.

National Policing Improvement Agency

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to involve the private sector in the provision of *(a)* police IT and *(b)* police training following the abolition of the National Policing Improvement Agency. [81257]

Nick Herbert: The private sector is already involved in the provision of police IT and police training. We will look for further efficiencies and value for money from services currently provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Police Commissioners

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer by the Prime Minister of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 350, on police commissioners, whether local authorities will be liable for the costs of elections for police commissioners. [71956]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The full cost of elections for Police and Crime Commissioners will neither fall on police forces nor on local authorities.

UK Border Agency: Bullying

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bullying and harassment cases are currently being pursued by UK Border Agency staff. [79778]

Damian Green: 31 cases of bullying and harassment are being investigated by the UK Border Agency at this time.

UK Border Agency: Resignations

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff with between 15 and 20 years' service have resigned from the UK Border Agency since May 2010. [79779]

Damian Green: The number of staff with between 15 and 20 years' service who have resigned from the UK Border Agency since May 2010 up to 31 October 2011 is 12.

TRANSPORT

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with HM Treasury on the future of air passenger duty; and what her policy is on the abolition of air passenger duty after the extension of the EU Emissions Trading System to the aviation sector. [82448]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has regular discussions with HM Treasury on a range of aviation issues. Decisions on matters concerning taxation are taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

The Government remain committed to the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading System from 1 January 2012.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she and her Department have had with HM Treasury over the future of air passenger duty. [83146]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has regular discussions with HM Treasury on a range of aviation issues, including air passenger duty. Decisions on matters concerning taxation are taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

Air Travel Organisers' Licence

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's planned reforms of the ATOL scheme, what the evidence basis is for her Department's conclusion that a two day Flight-plus buying window closely resembles a package in the eyes of consumers. [82599]

Mrs Villiers: The purpose of reform is to provide greater clarity to consumers about whether their flight inclusive holiday is ATOL-protected or not. The aim of including Flight Plus in ATOL is to protect those holidays that are very similar in content and appearance to package holidays but are outside the legal definition of a package holiday. The Department proposed a short time period for customer requests for Flight Plus components as this would be most consistent with this aim.

Views on the timing for consumer requests for holiday components were sought in the ATOL reform consultation (23 June to 15 September 2011). We are considering the responses and I plan to announce the final decisions for ATOL reform later this year or early next year.

Aviation

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the findings of the report by the British Chambers of Commerce on aviation, entitled 'Flying in the Face of Jobs and Growth'. [82449]

Mrs Villiers: The Government issued an aviation policy scoping document in March 2011, calling for evidence on a range of strategic issues. The British Chambers of Commerce produced the report 'Flying in the Face of Jobs and Growth' in response to the scoping document. We are reviewing the findings of this report alongside the many contributions to the debate about our future aviation policy. We will issue a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012.

Aviation: Business

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with representatives of *(a)* business and *(b)* aviation groups on aviation's role in supporting business. [82936]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), and I have engaged with business and aviation representatives on a range of aviation issues. The Government want to see a successful aviation sector which facilitates economic growth and addresses its environmental impacts. We are committed to issuing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012.

Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published quarterly and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

Aviation: Regulation

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made in reducing the burden of regulation in the aviation sector. [82412]

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made in reducing the burden of regulation in the aviation sector. [82447]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in reducing the regulatory burden affecting the aviation sector. [83139]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are currently undertaking a review of the existing stock of regulation with a view to removing over burdensome regulatory legislation.

As part of this process, in May next year the public and businesses will be invited to submit ideas for regulations

in the aviation sector that might be amended or revoked so as to reduce their burden on the industry or to the public as a whole.

Bus Services: Greater Manchester

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on greater bus regulation in Greater Manchester. [81545]

Norman Baker: We encourage local authorities such as Transport for Greater Manchester and bus operators to work in partnership. Local authorities also have powers to pursue statutory Quality Contracts and Quality Partnerships if appropriate. I intend to wait for the outcome of the Competition Commission inquiry into the local bus market outside London before deciding on the need for any changes to the regulatory regime.

Coastguard Service: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change has been in levels of staffing costs for the Coastguard Service since May 2010. [81191]

Mike Penning: The staffing costs for coastguards employed at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres for May 2010 compared to October 2011 are set out as follows:

	Staffing costs (£)
May 2010	1,167,307.44
October 2011	1,126,625.27

Driving Tests: Bury

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the driving test centre will re-open in Bury. [82345]

Mike Penning: The driving test centre at Bury is scheduled to re-open in February 2012.

Fuels: EU Action

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's policy is on the proposed EU Directive on fuel quality. [82325]

Norman Baker: Elements of the Fuel Quality Directive, dealing with the composition of petrol, diesel and non-road gas oil are implemented by the Motor Fuel (Composition and Content) Regulations 1999 as amended. These regulations were most recently amended at the end of 2010 to implement amendments made by Directive 2009/30/EC. These included reducing the maximum permissible sulphur content of non-road gas oil, introducing maximum permissible manganese content limits for petrol and diesel and increasing the maximum permissible ethanol content of petrol. These are mandatory requirements which the UK was obliged to transpose by the end of 2010 in order to help reduce air pollution and remove barriers to increased use of biofuels.

I also refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 8WS, which explains our proposals for implementation of article 7a of the Fuel Quality Directive and to my answer given on 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 415W, to the hon. Member for New Forest East (Dr Lewis).

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times operational freedoms at Heathrow airport were deployed in the latest period for which figures are available. [76420]

Mrs Villiers: During the period 1 November, when the trial began, and 21 November 2011, Tactically Enhanced Arrivals Measures (TEAM) were deployed on 1, 4, 5, 17 and 18 November as part of the operational freedoms trial. In total, the operational freedoms version of TEAM was used to land 51 aircraft on the runway designated for departures during this period.

BAA publishes daily data on the use of these measures at the following web address:

http://heathrowtrial.com

Liverpool Port

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential economic effect of the installation of a post-panamax terminal in the Port of Liverpool. [82986]

Mike Penning: The ports industry is a market-led commercial sector and the Department does not normally conduct or commission studies of the economic impacts of individual port projects.

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the existing capacity on the Greater Anglia rail franchise is; and what estimate she has made of the capacity that Abellio will provide under the newly-awarded franchise. [82167]

Mrs Villiers: The current operator of the Greater Anglia franchise had planned to deploy 236 (out of a fleet size of 260) four-car electric multiple units (EMUs) in daily service with effect from the December 2011 timetable change. Abellio plans to deliver the same service with 232 (out of a fleet size of 251) units.

However, the small number of trains that will be reduced in length as a result, are trains on which crowding is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future.

Railways: Fares

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider tightening the provisions of rail franchise agreements to ensure increases in ticket prices result in a corresponding rise in standards of rail service. [81878]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's policy is to move towards longer and more flexible franchises. We believe this will allow train operators to drive up the quality of services for passengers.

Rescue Services: Manpower

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes in staffing levels have taken place at each coastguard station since May 2010. [81192]

Mike Penning: The following tables show the difference in full-time equivalent (FTE) employed at each Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in May 2010 and October 2011.

Organisation	*1 May 2010*	*31 October 2011*	*FTE Change*
Aberdeen MRCC	29.00	25.50	-3.50
Belfast MRCC	21.14	21.14	0.00
Brixham MRCC	23.00	20.50	-2.50
Clyde MRCC	28.14	27.57	-0.57
Dover MRCC	31.00	26.00	-5.00
Falmouth MRCC	27.00	25.00	-2.00
Forth MRCC	15.00	14.00	-1.00
Holyhead MRCC	22.00	23.00	1.00
Humber MRCC	27.00	25.00	-2.00
Liverpool MRCC	21.50	20.50	-1.00
London Coastguard	7.00	11.00	4.00
Milford MRCC	24.00	23.00	-1.00
Portland MRCC	25.14	22.14	-3.00
Shetland MRCC	24.14	18.14	-6.00
Solent MRCC	28.65	25.65	-3.00
Stornoway MRCC	21.22	23.15	1.93
Swansea MRCC	27.00	22.00	-5.00
Thames MRCC	22.00	19.00	-3.00
Yarmouth MRCC	23.02	19.78	-3.24
Grand total	446.95	412.07	-34.88

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average number of staff *(a)* on duty and *(b)* employed at each coastguard station was in each of the last five years. [81267]

Mike Penning: The information is as follows.

(a) The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) does not hold records of the average number of staff on duty over the last five years. Staffing levels for each watch are evaluated to meet the need that the operational activity demands by each Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC). An approximate figure for the whole of Her Majesty's Coastguard for all MRCCs is:

	Summer	*Winter*
Day	75	60
Night	60	60

(b) The MCA does not keep average numbers of staff employed at each MRCC, however the numbers of staff employed (full-time equivalent) at each MRCC over the last five years are:

	As at 31 October each year				
Organisation	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Aberdeen MRCC	30.22	25.00	30.00	29.50	25.50
Belfast MRCC	23.70	21.70	21.14	20.14	21.14
Brixham MRCC	21.57	22.00	22.00	20.00	20.50
Clyde MRCC	31.22	27.57	29.57	27.64	27.57
Dover MRCC	29.14	25.14	31.07	32.50	26.00
Falmouth MRCC	26.68	25.14	27.00	27.00	25.00
Forth MRCC	20.00	20.00	19.00	14.00	14.00
Holyhead MRCC	22.70	22.14	22.00	20.00	23.00
Humber MRCC	29.00	27.00	29.00	28.00	25.00
Liverpool MRCC	21.57	22.57	23.07	21.50	20.50
London Coastguard	5.00	8.00	6.00	6.00	11.00
Milford MRCC	22.14	21.57	21.50	21.00	23.00
Portland MRCC	24.14	23.57	24.14	25.14	22.14
Shetland MRCC	20.70	19.70	19.14	20.14	18.14
Solent MRCC	26.00	27.00	28.86	27.65	25.65
StornowayMRCC	23.65	23.65	20.22	23.22	23.15
Swansea MRCC	28.00	26.00	27.00	26.00	22.00
Thames MRCC	25.07	21.50	23.00	21.00	19.00
Yarmouth MRCC	24.22	21.22	24.22	20.00	19.78
Total	454.69	430.45	447.93	430.43	412.07

Rescue Services: South Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the closure of Swansea coastguard station on coastguard services around Newport. [79853]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* No individual assessment has been made on the effect on coastguard services around Newport in respect of the proposed closure of Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has assessed the safety risks in relation to HM Coastguard's current operation on a national basis and how these are mitigated by the modernisation proposals. The MCA has also assessed the impact of the modernisation proposals on HM Coastguard's capability to deliver its national service in the future.

These assessments, as well as a location impact assessment, coastguard centre rationale and supporting tables showing factors taken into consideration in the proposed choice of coastguard centres, are available in the Libraries of the House, and on the MCA's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

I refer the hon. Member to my oral statement of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 161-64.

Road Traffic

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Highways Agency controlled A-roads see the biggest increase in traffic during the summer. [82342]

Mike Penning: At a national level, traffic on the strategic road network, including both motorways and A-roads, tends to follow a consistent annual pattern. Starting from the lowest levels of traffic during December, levels then rise gradually, month on month, to a summer peak during July and August, before slowly declining again through to December.

Traffic on individual routes, however, is subject to different levels of seasonal change. Comparing the combined traffic levels for the summer months of June, July and August, for 'Highways Agency-controlled A-roads', with the preceding three months of March, April and May, the routes which experienced the greatest percentage increases in vehicle miles travelled (VMT) are shown in the following table:

	VMT				
Road	*March to May*	*June to August*	*Increase*	*Percentage increase*	*Rank*
A30	296,319,601	359,728,530	63,408,929	21	1
A303	220,000,697	251,898,755	31,898,058	14	2
A120	83,734,035	93,645,820	9,911,784	12	3
A494	10,490,386	11,614,209	1,123,823	11	4
A696	6,389,445	7,057,473	668,028	10	[1]5
A35	76,465,938	84,227,753	7,761,815	10	[1]—
A31	113,486,280	124,709,656	11,223,376	10	[1]—
A458	8,715,964	9,548,557	832,593	10	[1]—

[1] Indicates a brace.

If, however, the ranking is based on actual vehicle miles travelled rather than percentage increases, the pattern is somewhat different:

	VMT				
Road	*March to May*	*June to August*	*Increase*	*Percentage increase*	*Rank*
A30	296,319,601	359,728,530	63,408,929	21	1
A1	714,657,865	766,531,909	51,874,044	7	2
A303	220,000,697	251,898,755	31,898,058	14	3
A34	301,295,002	328,674,164	27,379,163	9	4
A14	540,486,628	565,139,730	24,653,102	5	5

Roads: Fees and Charges

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of petrol prices on public support for road charging schemes. [82941]

Mike Penning: No such assessment has been made. The Government have no plans to introduce general road pricing, other than charging for heavy goods vehicles.

Roads: Housing

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made on facilitating the adoption by local authorities of residential roads in new housing developments since June 2010. [82645]

Norman Baker: Following discussions with representatives of local authorities and the home building sector, the Department has decided at this stage to encourage local authorities to make best use of the existing powers at their disposal. In particular, we are working to finalise some model planning conditions that could assist local authorities in ensuring that new roads are built to an acceptable standard and that arrangements are put in place for their ongoing maintenance. We also believe there is a role for further guidance and dissemination of good practice on these issues, but this would be a matter for expert practitioners in local authorities to progress in partnership with the home building sector. We will keep matters under review.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on road repairs following the adverse weather of winter 2010-11; and how much she expects her Department to spend during the 2011-12 winter. [82598]

Norman Baker: The then Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), wrote in March to all English local highway authorities to inform them of their share of the additional £200 million announced in the March 2011 Budget. This funding was in recognition of the damage to roads caused by exceptionally severe weather,

as December 2010 was the coldest for 100 years. The breakdown of funding allocation by local authority can be found at:

https://nds.coi.gov.uk/ImageLibrary/DownloadMedia.ashx?MediaDetailsID=3444

The Department is also providing £3 billion over the four years from 2011-12 to local highway authorities in England for roads for which they are responsible, as well as providing resource funding of £6 million for a programme to assist local authorities to deliver their highways maintenance more effectively and efficiently.

It should not be assumed that the Department will be in a position to provide additional funding following any future severe weather event. It remains the responsibility of local highway authorities to prioritise their overall resources and build in appropriate resilience as part of their overall maintenance programmes.

As regards roads controlled by the Highways Agency, the agency has a comprehensive road surfacing programme to assist in the reduction of damage to the strategic road network caused by adverse winter weather. However, the agency does not separately identify or estimate the maintenance costs directly associated with winter damage.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to assist motorists in preparation for winter weather. [82733]

Norman Baker: Local highway authorities have a duty under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the local highways network in their area. In relation to snow, a local authority's section 41 duty includes the requirement

"to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice".

Central Government have no powers to intervene in these matters in relation to local authority roads—winter service planning and salt stock supplies are the responsibility of the respective highway authorities. The Department is working closely with the local highways sector on ensuring that local highway authorities are prepared for any severe winter weather.

In respect of the Highways Agency, as a result of lessons learned and continuous improvement over a number of seasons, the agency has developed a robust winter service to assist motorists in the event of severe winter weather.

This includes: a fleet of 500 state of the art winter vehicles on stand-by, supported by tried and tested winter resilience plans; an adequate supply of operational and strategic salt stock in place at the start of the season; a Freight Snow Warning System in place to help the road haulage industry and drivers of goods and high-sided vehicles respond to warnings of severe weather or snow; an improved strategic incident management (Crisis Management Procedure) system that has been developed and implemented.

The Highways Agency has also improved its winter communications to provide traffic advice to motorists, including: greater adoption and wider use of Variable Messaging Signs to help manage the strategic road network by providing advanced warning to drivers of emergencies and incidents; the use social media sites to advise motorists of any major traffic incidents; undertaking an extensive stakeholder engagement programme.

The agency has also published advice to road users this winter, in a series of information notes under the theme, "Make time for winter". These notes can be found online at:

www.highways.gov.uk/winter

Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she expects private finance arrangements for *(a)* the Intercity Express Programme and *(b)* Thameslink rolling stock to be completed; [82166]

(2) when she expects to sign the Intercity Express Programme rolling stock contract. [82168]

Mrs Villiers: Both the Intercity Express Programme and Thameslink rolling stock contracts are targeted to reach financial close in the new year. Private financing of the deals will continue to be arranged up until the contracts are signed.

Shipping: Safety

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons her Department considers that the responsibility for ensuring operational safety of ships is a matter for which the commercial shipping industry should be wholly responsible. [80633]

Mike Penning: The international conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea provide that vessel operators must ensure the operational safety of their vessels through the application of a Safety Management System, in accordance with the International Safety Management Code. Among other things this requires companies to operate their ships in accordance with mandatory rules and regulations and in such a way that prevents human injuries or loss of life, and avoids damage to the marine environment.

The responsibility of Government is to ensure that companies arrange their activities in compliance with the Code.

Shipping: Security

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will issue guidance to maritime insurers and ship owners on the provision of private on-board security. [82321]

Mike Penning: Yes, the Department for Transport is finalising interim guidance to UK flagged shipping on the use of armed guards to defend against the threat of piracy in exceptional circumstances. I expect this to be published by the end of November.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on when the Thameslink rolling stock carriages will be available for testing. [82164]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is currently conducting commercial negotiations with Siemens plc and Cross London Trains, and the precise timescales for the testing and delivery of carriages are being finalised as part of this process.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Thameslink rolling stock carriages she plans to introduce in each year up to December 2018. [82165]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1393W.

Tugboats

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that *(a)* vessels in distress will be assisted, *(b)* pollution will be countered and *(c)* fires at sea will be tackled in British territorial waters after the removal of emergency towing vessels. [80628]

Mike Penning: The national response to vessels that get into distress for any reason, including fire, and maritime counter pollution will continue to be co-ordinated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency acting through Her Majesty's Coastguard.

Additionally, Her Majesty's Coastguard has long-standing arrangements with ports, harbours and tug brokers for the supply of tugs in an emergency situation using the Coastguard Agreement for Salvage and Towing (CAST).

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received from the Emergency Towing Vessel Working Group; and what steps she is taking to implement its funding recommendations. [80630]

Mike Penning: The Shipping Minister met with representatives of the Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) Working Group in Inverness on 25 July 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from the Group about the progress it had made to identify the means to fund ETV provision, without any recourse to central Government funding, for those areas where local people perceived the existence of a local problem. If the Group had been able to offer a reasonably certain prospect of secure funding, then my Department would have considered a short extension to the ETV provision in order to allow the group some time to finalise their local arrangements.

In the event the Group was not able to demonstrate that it had been able to identify any means of local funding and so was unable to make any recommendations that were sufficient to satisfy me that the ETV provision should be extended in any of the four locations.

Since 1 October 2011, the Scotland Office has been responsible for leading efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the Emergency Towing Vessels (ETV) service in waters around Scotland surrounding the Northern and Western Isles.

WALES

Airports: Weather Conditions

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has made an assessment of the preparedness of Welsh airport operators for extreme winter conditions. [81532]

Mr David Jones: I will be meeting with the managing director of Cardiff airport today and will be discussing a number of issues including their preparedness for extreme winter conditions and the lessons learned from last winter's severe weather. I will be seeking assurance that the airport will be able to respond appropriately to any future events of a similar nature, taking into account operational and safety factors. The Civil Aviation Authority is monitoring all airport operators' progress in improving their resilience.

It is of course a matter for the Welsh Government to ensure that appropriate plans are in place to keep the transport routes leading to the airport functioning.

Social Services: Cross-border Co-operation

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on cross-border issues relating to social care. [81531]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with Ministers in the Welsh Government and ministerial colleagues in Government about the future of social care provision.

The Department of Health will be publishing a White Paper on wider social care issues next spring alongside a progress report on funding reform. The Government are committed to working constructively with the Welsh Government on any implications for delivery of care and support in Wales.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bombings: Omagh

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to determine whether an inquiry into the Omagh bombing is to be held. [82711]

Mr Paterson: I met the Omagh Support and Self Help Group (OSSHG) last September. I also met family members who are against the establishment of a public inquiry. I have made it clear to all the families that I am open to receiving any representations from them on the issue. The OSSHG have recently advised me that they wish to submit further representations on this matter and have asked me to refrain from making any decision on the issue until these have been received.

Broadband

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport about 3G mobile broadband coverage in Northern Ireland; [82178]

(2) what discussions he has had with mobile network operators about 3G mobile broadband coverage in Northern Ireland; [82179]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport about the amount of money that will be allocated to Northern Ireland from the £150 million of funding to improve mobile coverage. [82182]

Mr Swire: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), and I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on issues affecting Northern Ireland, including mobile coverage. I have met with the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, my hon. Friend the Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizey), to discuss this matter on several occasions and I am a member of the cross-Government Ministerial Group on Broadband which ensures that we take a joined-up approach to the delivery of the coalition Government's broadband policy and projects. I have also discussed this matter with the Department for Enterprise and Investment Minister Arlene Foster.

Contacts with commercial telecoms providers are taken forward by DCMS or the Northern Ireland Executive as appropriate as they have the lead in such matters.

The allocation of the £150 million announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), to increase mobile coverage will be discussed at future meetings of the cross-Government Ministerial Group on Broadband. DCMS have yet to determine the methodology which will be used to distribute these funds and are still in very preliminary discussions with Ofcom.

Maghaberry Prison: Standards

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Justice Minister in Northern Ireland about conditions in Maghaberry Prison; and if he will make a statement. [82006]

Mr Paterson: I meet the Northern Ireland Justice Minister on a frequent basis to discuss a range of matters relating to security. Matters relating to the management of prisons in Northern Ireland, however, are the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Justice Minister and the Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Patrick Finucane

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Irish Government and *(b)* the Finucane family since his decision not to hold an inquiry into the death of Pat Finucane. [82009]

Mr Paterson: Since my announcement to the House on 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 335-37, I have had discussions with An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and other representatives of the Irish Government regarding my decision to establish an independent review into the murder of Patrick Finucane. The Government have had no further contact with the Finucane family since their meeting with the Prime Minister and me on 11 October. I understand from the press release made by the Pat Finucane review on 10 November that they have recently written to the Finucane family seeking a meeting with them at the earliest opportunity. I remain hopeful that the family will co-operate with the review.

Politics and Government

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will establish all-party talks in Northern Ireland to discuss how to deal with the past. [82007]

Mr Paterson: The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) and I have been consulting widely on how best to learn from the past in Northern Ireland. The Government will play their role in this process but remain convinced that progress will only be possible when consensus is achieved by those within Northern Ireland who have an interest. I plan to meet representatives of each of the Assembly parties in the coming weeks to seek their views on moving forward.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps he has taken in respect of *(a)* the past and *(b)* legacy issues in Northern Ireland. [82008]

Mr Paterson: The Government continue to play their part in dealing with issues relating to the past and in resolving outstanding legacy issues. The reports of three of four public inquiries were published in full in each case the day after I received the report (the Bloody Sunday Inquiry in June 2010, the Billy Wright Inquiry in September 2010 and the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry in May 2011). The Robert Hamill Inquiry report is to be published as soon as practicable, once related ongoing criminal proceedings have concluded. Sir Desmond de Silva's Review concerning the murder of Patrick Finucane is well under way. The Government have, where appropriate, apologised for past actions. The Prime Minister apologised to the Bloody Sunday families and, more recently, to the family of Patrick Finucane. The Government also published a summary of the responses to the previous Government's consultation on the recommendations of the Consultative Group on the Past from which it was clear that there is no consensus on the best way forward.

It is also important to recognise the wide range of work, and investigative matters, that are being taken forward in Northern Ireland, including the work of the Police Ombudsman's Office, the Historical Enquiries Team and the Victims Commissioners.

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) and I have been carrying out a listening exercise, meeting a wide range of political parties, community organisations, academics and victims' groups to hear their views on how best to learn from the past. As is clear from the steps already taken, the Government are ready to make their own contribution on this matter but they do not "own" the past and cannot impose solutions; all those with an interest in Northern Ireland have a part to play.

Public Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about measures

in the 2011 Pre-Budget Report to tackle *(a)* adult and *(b)* youth unemployment in Northern Ireland; [82650]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 2011 Pre Budget Report with respect to Northern Ireland; and on what dates such discussions took place. [82652]

Mr Paterson: As part of the coalition Government's plan to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy I have regular discussions on a range of economic matters with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), and other Treasury Ministers. However, specific measures to tackle both adult and youth unemployment are primarily devolved matters which are the responsibility of the relevant Northern Ireland Executive Ministers.

Social Security Benefits

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects of his welfare reform proposals in Northern Ireland. [82651]

Mr Paterson: I discuss these matters regularly with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and I have met the Minister for Welfare Reform, my noble Friend the Lord Freud, on a number of occasions, both in Northern Ireland and London to discuss the implications of the welfare reform agenda for Northern Ireland. My noble Friend has visited Northern Ireland twice to discuss this agenda with Northern Ireland Ministers and plans to visit again.

Terrorism

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many offences categorised as terrorist-related there have been in Northern Ireland *(a)* in the most recent period for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last 10 years. [82010]

Mr Paterson: The number of persons charged with offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 in the financial year 2010-11 was 19.

The figures for each of the last nine calendar years is as follows:

	Number
2001	17
2002	38
2003	62
2004	26
2005	28
2006	28
2007	16
2008	6
2009[1]	15

[1] In 2009 statistical reporting arrangements changed from calendar year to financial year, therefore the 2009 figure also includes the first three months of 2010.

These figures relate to the number of charges under the Terrorism Act, however, charges relating to terrorist activity may also be brought under other legislation. It is not possible to identify those charges which have been made under other legislation that relate to terrorist activity.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of an increase in the levels of air passenger duty on *(a)* businesses and *(b)* the economy; [82445]

(2) if he will assess the proposal by the British Chambers of Commerce that overall tax revenues from air passenger duty should be offset against revenues arising from the entry of aviation into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in 2012. [82446]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government launched a consultation on air passenger duty at Budget. A large number of responses to the consultation were submitted, including the views of business. The Government will publish their response shortly.

Air passenger duty is fundamentally a revenue-raising duty which makes an important contribution to the public finances. In meeting their revenue requirements, the Government consider aviation taxes in the round.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Ashfield constituency paid 50p income tax rate in the latest period for which figures are available. [82479]

Mr Gauke: An estimated 308,000 taxpayers are liable to income tax at the 50% additional rate in the United Kingdom in 2011-12. In the east midlands, which contains the Ashfield constituency the estimate is 12,000. These and estimates for other UK Government office regions are published on the HMRC website in tables 2.1 and 2.2 which are available at the following addresses;

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf

Reliable estimates are not available at the parliamentary constituency level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Tax Collection

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters have been issued in error by HM Revenue and Customs in the last two months for which information is available. [82501]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not hold the information requested and it is available only at disproportionate cost.

Universal Credit: Disability

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposes that current levels of financial support to low income and out of work families with disabled children through the disability addition will be retained when Universal Credit is introduced. [79023]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Under Universal Credit the cash additions for families with disabled children and the cash additions for adults will be aligned, with the lower rate at £26.75 and the upper rate at around £77 per week. The Government will also extend eligibility for the higher rate to children who are registered blind who currently only qualify for the disabled child element in Child Tax Credit (those registered or certified as blind).

Increases in the higher addition will be phased in from 2013 as savings from simplification are realised. During this phasing-in period we will ensure that severely disabled children do not receive less than they would be under the Child Tax Credit equivalent amount. As this is more than the current equivalent higher addition for adults, the higher adult and child rates may not be in alignment until this phasing-in period is complete.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ministers' Private Offices: Expenditure

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* supplier and *(c)* amount was of each transaction made on corporate cards held by the private office of the Secretary of State in his Department between 6 October 2003 and 28 June 2007. [82151]

Mr Duncan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Martial Arts

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which martial arts organisations have received grants from his Department in each of the last 10 years; and how much each such grant was. [82344]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England invests national lottery and Exchequer funding in community sport.

The amount of lottery and Exchequer funding awarded to martial arts organisations can be found in the following tables. Sport England does not hold details of Exchequer funding prior to 2002-03.

Lottery

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2001-02	1,421,612
2002-03	1,495,315
2003-04	4,366,854
2004-05	587,290
2005-06	4,404,279
2006-07	930,000
2007-08	1,742,788
2008-09	500,000
2009-10	8,820,514
2010-11	796,750
Total	25,065,402

Exchequer

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2002-03	125,000
2003-04	125,000
2004-05	254,535
2005-06	826,496
2006-07	1,826,725
2007-08	288,433
2008-09	942,615
2009-10	621,551
2010-11	826,037
Total	5,836,392

Aerials

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to provide information on how the £150 million mobile phone mast fund will be allocated. [82183]

Mr Vaizey: The mobile project is currently in the definition stage and expects to commence procurement in 2012. The allocation of funds will be dependent upon the delivery model and procurement route to be followed. It is expected that an outline allocation will be clear by the early stages of any procurement approach with final allocations confirmed in later stages. It is expected that any contract(s) will be awarded for delivery of services to commence in 2013.

Horse Racing: Betting

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to issue details of his Department's consultation on the future of the horse racing levy. [82674]

John Penrose: I am currently in discussions with representatives of racing and bookmakers on the options for the future of the levy that are fair, commercial, sustainable, enforceable and remove Government from the process. We have made a promising start but it is still early days and I am cautious about moving to a public consultation until these discussions have produced an outline which is acceptable to both sides. Everybody wants to reach a solution swiftly but whether we do will depend on how quickly the racing and gambling industries can agree.

PRIME MINISTER

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Prime Minister how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* him and *(b)* senior officials for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many of his staff are expected to

undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82591]

The Prime Minister: Official photographs are published on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk

and on the No. 10 flickr stream

http://www.flickr.com/photos/number10gov

They are indicated with a 'Crown Copyright' inscription.

Northern Ireland Government

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he last met the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland *(a)* separately and *(b)* together; [82653]

(2) what plans he has to invite the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland to No. 10 Downing Street for discussions. [82654]

The Prime Minister: I met the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland at Stormont Castle on 9 June 2011. I and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), are in regular communication with them.

Supermarkets

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* Asda, *(b)* Tesco and *(c)* Sainsbury's since June 2010. [82310]

The Prime Minister: A list of my official meetings with external organisations is available on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

CABINET OFFICE

Community Organisers

Mr Byrne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what funding he proposes to allocate for community organisers in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in each of the next three years. [82592]

Mr Hurd: The Government have appointed Locality to deliver the Community Organisers programme at arm's length from Government. Locality believes that Community Organisers need to be hosted within a local organisation which can help the Community Organiser make the essential links with the local people, other voluntary organisations, businesses and the local authority. These organisations also provide mentoring, advice, peer support and desk space. Over the four-year period, Locality expects to recruit between 100-200 local organisations across England to host Community Organisers. Recruitment of host organisations is based on a set of criteria, including a focus on areas of significant deprivation and the ability of the organisation to host and sustain between two and five Community Organisers each. Recruitment of Community Organisers is undertaken locally by host organisations.

There are currently 22 local organisations taking part in the programme, with more being recruited regularly. The programme aims to reach a good geographical coverage by the end of the four years. As the process of recruiting locally rooted host organisations is an open application process, it is not possible to pre-determine which areas will benefit over the next three years. However, I can confirm that there are host organisations in the following areas: Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Sheffield, Bradford, and Leicester.

Further details of the programme are available at:

www.cocollaborative.org.uk

Adam Werritty

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [81468]

Mr Maude: Ministerial meetings with external organisations are published at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

There is no record of Cabinet Office Ministers or special advisers meeting with Mr Werritty. One Cabinet Office official met Mr Werritty on two occasions away from departmental premises as part of the Cabinet Secretary's review into allegations relating to the former Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his estimate is of the number of British nationals who had a vacation in each other EU member state in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [82499]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General of the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question asking what the estimate is of the number of British nationals who had a vacation in each other EU member state in each of the last 10 years. [82499]

The estimated number of holiday visits to each of the current member states made by UK nationals who are resident in the UK are shown in Table 1. These estimates are drawn from the International Passenger Survey. For each country the estimate is the number of relevant visits abroad on which the reported country is the main destination.

Table 1: Holiday visits abroad by UK nationals who are resident in the UK. Presented in terms of main country visited on each visit

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
									Visits (thousand)	
Austria	382	541	415	579	543	492	482	576	517	440
Belgium	736	746	832	707	784	840	923	831	652	628
Bulgaria	89	121	130	244	316	208	231	265	162	143
Czech Republic	191	249	398	507	585	528	384	309	217	179
Cyprus	1,336	1,155	1,105	1,093	1,227	1,063	1,066	1,063	800	752
Denmark	73	66	68	86	65	73	71	67	61	61
Estonia	7	7	16	27	40	44	46	22	9	11
Finland	47	45	65	77	56	83	110	88	62	41
France	6,637	7,116	6,992	6,949	6,847	6,666	7,050	7,013	6,497	5,854
Germany	497	538	422	575	679	646	761	739	565	589
Greece	2,954	2,689	2,641	2,398	2,179	2,175	2,214	1,840	1,607	1,447
Hungary	46	41	55	102	164	126	106	113	77	84
Irish Republic	1,130	1,245	1,113	1,177	1,230	1,301	1,053	1,008	765	554
Italy	1,491	1,653	1,850	1,917	2,178	2,240	2,313	2,176	1,611	1,398
Latvia	3	3	4	7	26	46	44	28	9	20
Lithuania	1	5	4	11	5	16	13	6	6	5
Luxembourg	13	13	13	11	14	9	14	15	9	24
Malta	398	392	413	431	470	425	400	418	303	350
Netherlands	948	1,038	1,000	1,045	1,012	1,100	995	875	769	727
Poland	43	28	45	72	111	215	251	244	197	170
Portugal	1,331	1,527	1,581	1,446	1,507	1,582	1,802	2,109	1,491	1,517
Romania	3	6	12	13	17	12	15	19	19	13
Slovakia	5	6	4	7	25	41	24	26	11	13
Slovenia	15	24	16	39	47	55	44	54	20	31
Spain	10,557	11,129	12,022	11,916	11,806	12,293	11,688	11,694	9,829	8,919
Sweden	78	75	65	59	55	72	82	112	52	67

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many British nationals worked in each other EU member state in each of the last 10 years, for part or all of that year; and if he will make a statement. [82500]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many British nationals have been employed in other EU member states over the last ten years. The requested information is available in the following table (82500).

The data comes from the Labour Force Survey and is transmitted on a voluntary basis by the EU Member States to Eurostat (the European Union's statistical office). As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment by citizenship: UK citizens (aged 15 to 64) working in other EU27 member states

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
										Persons (thousand)	
Belgium	8.5	13.0	14.0	7.2	11.7	10.8	10.5	9.5	9.6	11.3	10.0
Bulgaria	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.3	—	0.1	—	—
Czech Republic	—	—	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.9	1.7
Denmark	6.1	6.5	6.8	9.7	6.3	5.9	6.4	6.1	7.3	9.9	8.1
Germany	72.4	68.7	58.2	74.2	68.8	55.4	64.6	62.1	62.1	56.7	58.4
Estonia	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.1	—	0.3	0.1	—
Ireland	31.7	37.6	38.0	42.0	39.6	—	51.6	41.4	54.8	47.8	37.6
Greece	1.6	2.3	1.4	3.4	2.7	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.0	2.4
Spain	28.0	39.5	41.9	30.4	37.4	50.7	54.5	55.7	51.0	54.5	62.2
France	29.0	28.2	34.4	18.1	24.3	28.2	27.7	25.9	33.7	37.4	47.5
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	10.8	10.9	6.6	9.3	11.4	n/a
Cyprus	5.4	3.8	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.9	4.8	5.0	5.7	5.0	5.4
Latvia	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	—
Lithuania	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	—	—	0.1
Luxembourg	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.2	4.5
Hungary	—	1.0	—	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5
Malta	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4
Netherlands	34.5	32.9	30.0	31.6	24.2	22.8	22.7	26.1	26.2	24.3	n/a

Employment by citizenship: UK citizens (aged 15 to 64) working in other EU27 member states

Persons (thousand)

Country	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Austria	1.8	3.1	1.8	5.0	3.8	4.2	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.9	4.9
Poland	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.5	1.9	1.2	0.6	0.2
Portugal	0.6	1.7	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	1.5	3.3	4.1	1.6
Rumania	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.6
Slovenia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.6
Finland	0.7	1.4	1.3	0.4	1.1	0.6	1.3	1.8	1.5	0.9	1.4
Sweden	8.8	9.3	7.3	8.2	9.0	9.3	9.5	8.3	8.3	10.0	10.6

Civil Servants: British Nationality

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of posts in the civil service have full UK citizenship as a requirement of employment. [80438]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Eligibility for employment in the civil service is governed by legislative requirements as to nationality. Although the civil service endeavours to open up as many posts as possible to the range of nationals eligible for employment, a number will be reserved for UK nationals. Given these posts will deal with the most sensitive information relating to national security and the interests of the UK the reserving of such posts is a reasonable action.

The criteria by which posts can be designated as reserved is set out in the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 with Departments and agencies responsible for considering whether or not a post requires reserving for UK nationals only. Unless a post satisfies the criteria, it cannot be reserved.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much funding from the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* private sector has been allocated to the mutualisation of MyCSP; [82520]

(2) how much funding from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the private sector has been allocated to the mutualisation of MyCSP. [82786]

Mr Maude: The work to transform the management and administration of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme has been under way for some time and has included the creation of MyCSP and now its mutualisation.

While MyCSP is part of government, its transformation is provisioned by Cabinet Office and subject to an approved business case. A competition is currently under way to select a private sector partner to contribute to this mutualisation and transformation through share participation in the MyCSP mutual joint venture. As this process is under way at the moment it would be inappropriate to make any further statement at this time.

McKinsey and Company

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* secondees and *(b)* consultants from McKinsey and Company are being paid by (i) his Department and (ii) McKinsey and Company; [82454]

(2) how many employees of McKinsey and Company are working in his Department; and what role each such person has in his Department; [82455]

(3) if he will publish the names of people employed by McKinsey and Company who *(a)* are working in his Department and *(b)* have been seconded to his Department since 6 May 2010. [82456]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has one person employed by McKinsey and Company. Mr Tim Kelsey leads on the Transparency agenda and is being paid for by the Cabinet Office at the equivalent rate of a director.

This is part of the Cabinet Office's strategy to bring in expertise from commercial and third sector organisations and the wider public sector but at civil service rates of pay, rather than consultancy rates.

McKinsey and Company have not seconded any other employees to the Cabinet Office since 6 May 2010.

Voluntary Sector

Steve Brine: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dumfries and Galloway of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 907, on the voluntary sector, when he plans to announce further details of the special funding for advice centres. [82450]

Mr Hurd: The £16.8 million Advice Services Fund for England was announced on 21 November 2011. The fund will provide immediate support for not-for-profit providers of free advice services in England. The fund will be administered by the Big Fund, the non-lottery arm of the Big Lottery Fund and will be open for applications by the end of November.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Graham Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many organisations in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Hyndburn constituency are involved in National Citizen Service pilot schemes. [82925]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office has announced 29 providers to deliver 2012 pilots. In Lancashire, three organisations have been selected as lead providers—Catch22, The Challenge Network and Fylde Coast YMCA.

Graham Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements are in place to ensure that the distribution funding for organisations providing

National Citizen Service programmes *(a)* takes place on a fair geographical basis and *(b)* takes account of social inclusion. [82926]

Mr Hurd: Providers were selected after a two-stage bidding process that was fully open and competitive. In commissioning places for the 2012 pilots the Cabinet Office looked closely at where providers were able to deliver places and pilots will take place in 95% of upper tier local authority areas in England in 2012. Pilot providers were partly chosen on the strength of their proposals to recruit the broadest range of young people to participate.

Graham Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young people from *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Hyndburn constituency he expects to be involved in the National Citizen Service in each of the next four years. [82927]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office is committed to providing 30,000 NCS places across the country in 2012. Pilots will take place in 95% of upper tier local authority areas in 2012, and providers were partly chosen on the strength of their proposals to recruit the broadest range of young people to participate. The Prime Minister has announced that there will be 90,000 places for young people in 2014 with an ambition to make NCS universally available to all 16-year-olds in future.

Graham Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the budget for the National Citizen Service will be allocated on a regional basis; and what funding he expects to allocate to organisations in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Hyndburn constituency. [82928]

Mr Hurd: The budget for the 2012 pilots is held by the Cabinet Office and is allocated to providers after an open competition which takes account of their ability to deliver and their plans to recruit a broad range of young people. The Cabinet Office has announced 29 providers to deliver the 2012 pilots.

Geraint Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on *(a)* print and broadcast advertising, *(b)* launch costs and *(c)* promotional material for the 2011 pilot National Citizen Service in 2010-11. [82334]

Mr Hurd: In line with the current Government freeze on marketing and advertising, there was no central Government budget allocated to marketing and advertising, launch costs and promotional materials for the 2011 pilot of National Citizen Service.

Any costs for print or broadcast advertising, launch costs or promotional material for the 2011 pilot of National Citizen Service in 2010-11 were met by the 12 provider organisations who delivered the pilot.

Geraint Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effect of charging for National Citizen Service places on the take-up of places by children from low-income backgrounds in 2011. [82335]

Mr Hurd: During the 2011 pilot of National Citizen Service, some pilot providers requested small contributions or deposits from participants. Many providers supported participants to fundraise this amount. All National Citizen Service pilots included bursaries or support schemes to ensure that young people/families without the means to contribute were able to participate.

The independent evaluation of the first National Citizen Service pilot by NatCen is currently examining a range of factors impacting on recruitment, including the effects of charging for National Citizen Service places. Findings will be made available in due course.

Geraint Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to ask local authorities to contribute to the cost of National Citizen Service places in their areas. [82336]

Mr Hurd: The National Citizen Service pilots in 2011 and 2012 are aiming to test a variety of cost and delivery models. Provider organisations have been tasked to develop and outline innovative ways of building a broad coalition of support from across the community to help with the delivery of National Citizen Service, including local authorities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax Benefits

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what modelling his Department undertook of changes in council tax benefit for those in employment of *(a)* the localisation of this benefit and *(b)* a 10 per cent. reduction in available funding. [82644]

Robert Neill: The Department's modelling of changes in council tax benefit for those in employment of *(a)* the localisation of this benefit and *(b)* a 10% reduction in available funding will be included in the impact assessment to be published alongside the legislation providing for the localisation of council tax support in England.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions on the alignment of localised council tax benefit with universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [82646]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss a range of matters.

Councillors: Leave

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of paid time off work for the conduct of public duties given to employees of local authorities who are also councillors in the last year for which figures are available. [81985]

Robert Neill: We have made no such estimate.

Empty Property

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to encourage local authorities to bring empty properties back into use. [82486]

Grant Shapps: The Government published "Laying the Foundations—A Housing Strategy for England" on 21 November which sets out our plans for dealing with empty homes.

Through the affordable homes programme we have committed £100 million to bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing. We are making sure that community and self help groups have an opportunity to access this funding and take on this work alongside conventional housing providers. Detailed bidding guidance is available on the Homes and Communities Agency's website:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/ourwork/empty-homes

We have announced £50 million of additional funding to tackle some of the worst concentrations of empty homes. Tackling empty homes in these areas will require an intensive approach—refurbishing and reconfiguring homes, as well as improving the public realm and tackling wider issues in the local area.

We are consulting on technical reforms to council tax, including on proposals to give councils the flexibility to reduce or remove council tax relief on empty homes, and second homes. These reforms could allow councils to make up to a £20 a year reduction in the bill for a typical Band D property in England. The consultation also explores the proposition that councils should have local discretion to introduce a council tax premium on homes that have been empty for more than two years. All these measures would provide an additional fiscal incentive for owners to bring empty homes into use more quickly.

Under the New Homes Bonus local authorities can receive the same financial reward for bringing an empty home back into use as building a new one—so over £8,500 for a band D property. In year one of the New Homes Bonus just under 16,000 long term empty homes were brought back into use. This equates to a reward to local authorities of around £19 million.

The new Community Right to Reclaim Land will also assist communities to bring empty properties owned by public bodies back into use.

Empty Property: Retail Trade

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities are empowered to compulsorily purchase individual retail units which have been empty in order to bring them back into use; and under what authority. [82475]

Robert Neill: If a local authority has a scheme for any land, it may acquire that land by agreement. If that is not possible, authorities have a number of powers to acquire land compulsorily, provided they can demonstrate to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), a compelling case in the public interest. It is for the authority concerned to choose the appropriate power, but the powers under section 226(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are frequently used to acquire land in town centre schemes.

Growing Places Fund

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers in his Department made public mention of *(a)* the Growing Places Fund, *(b)* the money which was subsequently to be allocated to the Growing Places Fund and *(c)* the stated intention of the Growing Places Fund prior to the official announcement of the policy on 7 November 2011. [82511]

Grant Shapps: On 18 September, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), announced plans to establish a new £500 million Growing Places Fund to support local infrastructure projects which unlock housing and economic growth.

I refer the right hon. Member to the statement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 445 and to the answer by the Minister of State for Decentralisation and Cities, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 124W.

The announcement of 7 November 2011 was the publication of the Fund's prospectus and the indicative allocations to individual Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Housing: Construction

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 567-8W, on housing: construction, what progress the Planning Inspectorate has made in developing and publishing a model condition which local planning authorities can use where they need to require that any residential roads proposed as part of a housing development are built to adoptable standards. [82647]

Robert Neill: Draft model planning conditions have been prepared as a basis for discussion about the approaches which local planning authorities can use where they need to require that residential roads proposed as part of a housing development are built to adoptable standards. Legal and technical consultation is under way but must be completed before these can be used.

Housing: Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the receipts from local authority housing sales he expects will go to local authorities to help them build new houses. [82793]

Andrew Stunell: The Government will consult shortly on how receipts arising from additional homes sold under the right to buy will be used to fund new affordable homes.

Local Government: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* 90%, (b) 80%, (c) 70% and (d) 60% employee participation rates on Local Government Pension Scheme funds. [82641]

Robert Neill: No assessment of this kind has been made yet. The level of employee participation and its impact on scheme income is one of the factors to be taken into account by scheme actuaries when funds are next valued in 2013. Access to scheme membership is automatic for eligible employees. Employers and pension fund administering authorities have a role in explaining the available benefits and their guaranteed status.

Mayors: Referendums

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is responsible for monitoring donations for mayoral referendums. [82601]

Robert Neill: The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2007, which specify the rules for conducting local governance referendums, including referendums on having a directly elected mayor, set an expense limit for campaign expenditure at local governance referendums. While there are no statutory arrangements for monitoring compliance with these provisions, exceeding this limit constitutes a criminal offence.

The 2007 Regulations will be replaced by new regulations following the enactment of the Localism Act 2011; it is intended that these will replicate the existing provisions on expense limits.

Where a registered political party or a regulated donee are participants in a mayoral referendum, the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in respect of donations to parties or regulated donees will apply.

Planning Permission

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether private sector organisations are entitled to present local and neighbourhood plans. [79996]

Greg Clark: Only local planning authorities can bring forward local plans. Neighbourhood plans can be brought forward by a parish or town council or a designated neighbourhood forum. Neighbourhood forums must be open to all those living or working in the neighbourhood area.

Where a local council designates a neighbourhood as a business area, non-domestic rate payers will also be allowed to vote in the referendum at the end of the neighbourhood planning process. Business areas for neighbourhood planning will be areas which are wholly or predominantly business in nature.

A local authority will be required to put a neighbourhood plan into force where a majority of both voting residents and business rate payers support the plan in the referendum.

Planning Permission: Norfolk

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which representatives of local authorities in Norfolk he has met in the last two months to discuss the provisions of the Localism Bill relating to planning reform; and if he will make a statement. [81271]

Greg Clark: Details of DCLG Ministers meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/ministerialdata/

Social Services: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely effect of the Local Government Resource Review on social care. [82648]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

TaxPayers' Alliance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with the TaxPayers' Alliance in the last 12 months for which information is available. [81987]

Robert Neill: Details of ministerial and the permanent secretary's meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/ministerialdata/

Details of other officials' meetings are not held centrally and it would entail disproportionate cost to assemble the information.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Regulation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 802W, on regulation, which sectors other than retail and hospitality have been examined by the Red Tape Challenge. [82443]

Mr Prisk: As of 22 November 2011 10 further themes have been in the 'spotlight' on the Red Tape Challenge website. These are: Road Transportation, Equalities, Enforcement, Health and Safety, Manufacturing, Environment, Employment-related Law, Children's Services, Rail and Maritime Transport and Disruptive Business Models. In addition, Pensions and Company and Commercial Law have been open for comment since the website went live. Details of all previous and upcoming themes can be found on the website at:

www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the regulations relating to the retail and hospitality sectors examined by the Red Tape Challenge have been removed. [82444]

Mr Prisk: The outcomes of the Retail and Hospitality, Food and Drink Red Tape Challenge themes were announced in July and September respectively. We are currently following the appropriate legislative and parliamentary processes to implement these changes.

Businesses: Ex-servicemen

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have applied to the Be the Boss scheme for ex-service personnel. [82618]

Mr Prisk: 1,786 ex-service personnel have applied to join the scheme since the Royal British Legion launched the Be the Boss Scheme in June 2010. On 17 November I met with a number of participants in the scheme. On that occasion I also announced that the eligibility criteria had been extended, meaning that all ex-service personnel can now take advantage of the support offered by the scheme.

Consultants

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* temporary staff in his Department are working on the Red Tape Challenge; and what the estimated number of such staff will be in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [80410]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 324W.

Departmental Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills (1) how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010; [79538]

(2) how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79539]

Mr Davey: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member, and ordinary parliamentary questions (PQs) within five sitting days. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will normally be preferable to provide an answer a few days late, rather than provide an incomplete answer.

During the period 10 May 2010 to 31 October 2011 a total of 1,469 named day parliamentary questions (PQs) were due for answer, of which 969 (66%) received a substantive reply on the date requested by the Member. Twenty-three of the 1,469 named day answers (2%) did not receive a substantive answer within 10 sitting days.

In line with the format provided to the Procedure Committee in the last session,[1] the Department's PQ data are recorded by (i) questions answered on time (ii) questions answered within 5 to 10 days and (iii) questions answered more than 10 days late. Data related to PQs answered 20 or 30 days late are not held centrally within the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written PQ performance on a sessional basis and will provide the committee with the information, using the same format as before, at the end of the session.

These figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Procedure Committee—First Special Report 7 December 2009 [HC 129].

European Union

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many ministerial-level meetings have been held in his Department as part of the Government's examination of the balance of EU competences. [81415]

Mr Davey: I refer the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South to the answer I gave on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 143W.

Higher Education

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much funding has been allocated for each higher education institution in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Birmingham in each of the next five years; [82778]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to higher education institutions in *(a)* Newcastle, *(b)* Wakefield, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Leeds, *(e)* Liverpool, *(f)* Bristol, *(g)* Sheffield, *(h)* Bradford, (i) Leicester and (j) Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82779]

Mr Willetts: The recurrent funding that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) pays to higher education institutions (HEIs) is calculated on an annual basis. The most recent available allocation figures are for 2011-12. Details of the 2011-12 allocations are available on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/recurrent/2011/notify/

A summary table of allocations by region can also be accessed through this link.

Subsequent years' allocations are not confirmed. Future year allocations are subject to funding agreement and will be confirmed in subsequent grant letters.

Higher Education: Regulation

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish *(a)* a summary of consultation responses received, *(b)* a list of respondents and *(c)* the Government's response to his Department's consultation entitled A new, fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for the Higher Education sector. [82039]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Technical Consultation closed on 27 October 2011. The Department will respond in due course. This response will include a summary of all consultation responses and a list of the respondents.

Higher Education: Students

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what research he has commissioned on the effect on the number of mature students in higher education of the Government's decision to remove limits on student numbers for those achieving grades AAB or above at A level; and if he will make a statement; [80887]

(2) what research he has commissioned on the effects on the number of black and ethnic minority students entering higher education of the Government's decision to remove the cap on student numbers for those achieving grades AAB or above at A level; and if he will make a statement. [80889]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education White Paper, "Students at the Heart of the System" published in June this year, sets out clearly the importance the Government place on widening participation and improving fair access to higher education. We have been clear that all those with the ability should have access to higher education irrespective of their background or family income. Following the publication of the HE White Paper BIS Ministers wrote to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) setting out priorities for funding which includes the additional costs associated with attracting and retaining students from non-traditional backgrounds, and disabled students.

The impact of the proposed changes to student number controls that were outlined in the HE White Paper were assessed in the HE White Paper Equality Impact Assessment. This concluded that any changes that we make to help meet some of the significant demand for higher education will have no adverse affect on protected or disadvantaged groups because any 2012/13 changes will work within existing entrant control systems and will not affect the number of student places. It also outlined that most students with AAB+ A-level grades already go to university.

Annex D of HEFCE's consultation on teaching funding and student number controls (SNC) for 2012/13

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2011/11_20/

provides information on proportions of students known to have AAB+, known not to have AAB+ or who are not attributed to either population, with breakdowns for subject area, ethnicity and age group.

We have instructed HEFCE to continue to monitor impact on particular groups and in developing the proposals for teaching funding and allocating student numbers for 2012-13 HEFCE has assessed the impact on the HE sector in terms of regulatory burden, equality and diversity, sustainable development and privacy in its Sector Impact Assessment

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/funding/201213/201213_tfund_SIA.pdf

Occupational Health: Research

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the state of research in the field of occupational health. [81614]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC), one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research, has not assessed the state of research in occupational health recently. A routine quinquennial review of the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit, which includes research in occupational health, took place in 2009.

Office for Fair Access

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 17 in the Executive Summary of the Higher Education White Paper, "Students at the heart of the system", what progress he has made in increasing the resources of the Office for Fair Access. [79441]

Mr Willetts: In the financial year 2010/11 the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) baseline budget was £484,000. We have agreed in the course of this year (2011/12) to increase this to £630,000 and are continuing to work with the director to keep this under review to ensure he has access to the resources he needs to fulfil his role in line with the Government's expectations set out in the letter to him on 10 February 2011.

The Government have committed to strengthen OFFA, as outlined in the Higher Education White Paper "Students at the heart of the system", so it can provide a more active and energetic challenge and support to universities and colleges. We will work with the next Director on the size and structure of OFFA but will make significantly more resources available, increasing capacity up to around four times its original level.

Public Houses

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the Tenth Report from the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee on Pub Companies, HC 1369; and if he will make a statement. [82507]

Mr Davey: The Government response to Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee report on Pub Companies was published this morning. The response may be found on the BIS website and contains a full statement of the Government's position:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/publications

Qualifications: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults in the London borough of Bexley completed a *(a)* level 2 and *(b)* level 3 qualification in the last five years for which figures are available. [76563]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of adults (aged 19+) achieving a Government-funded full level 2 and full level 3 qualification in Bexley local education authority from 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest years for which final data are available.

Full level 2 and full level 3 achievements by adults (aged 19+) in Bexley local education authority, 2005/06 to 2009/10

Academic	Full level 2 achievements	Full level 3 achievements
2005/06	430	370
2006/07	700	440
2007/08	1,100	500
2008/09[1]	1,900	700
2009/10[1]	1,960	890

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years due to the introduction of demand led funding. More information on demand-led funding is available at:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
4. These data include Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Workplace Learning, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry funding streams. Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special Colleges (Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges), Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
5. These data include all Government-funded FE participation and achievement excluding schools and higher education.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on Further Education and Skills participation and achievement is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 802W, on the Regional Growth Fund, whether his Department takes into account the amount spent by companies on due diligence when assessing bids to the Regional Growth Fund. [82496]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Growth Fund does not require companies to undertake due diligence ahead of submitting a bid.

Renewable Energy: Training

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much of the budget allocated to the Renewables Training Network he estimates will be spent in Scotland; [82465]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* Scottish universities, *(c)* Scottish colleges and *(d)* businesses in Scotland on the formation of the Renewables Training Network. [82466]

Mr Hayes: The Renewables Training Network receives public funding from the Growth and Innovation Fund, alongside matching employer investment. Department for Business, Innovation and Skills funding for skills covers England only and the scope of Growth and Innovation Fund projects reflects that.

Students: Loans

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of graduates who will not repay their student loans in full over a 30-year period. [80735]

Mr Willetts: We currently estimate that around 40% of borrowers will not fully repay their loan either because it will be written off due to death, not being able to work again due to permanent disability or after 30 years has expired.

We currently estimate that the resource accounting and budgeting charge for student loans—representing the cost of both write-offs and interest subsidies—will be around 30% of the face value of loans issued.

Trade Unions: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in Equalities for Trade Union Representatives courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82121]

(2) how many awards were made to participants in Trade Union Health and Safety Representation courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82122]

(3) how many awards were made to participants in Trade Union Representative courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82123]

(4) how many awards were made to participants in Trade Unions Today courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82124]

(5) how many certificates were awarded to participants in Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82125]

(6) how many certificates were awarded to participants in Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives (Next Steps) courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82126]

(7) how many certificates were awarded to participants in Trade Union Representatives (stage 1) courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82127]

(8) how many certificates were awarded to participants in Trade Union Representatives (Stepping Up) courses

funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82128]

(9) how many certificates were awarded to participants in Trade Union Learning Representatives courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82129]

(10) how many certificates were awarded to participants in Trade Unions Today courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82130]

(11) what courses for trade union representatives were funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; [82139]

(12) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in TUC Organising Academy courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82140]

(13) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in Trade Union Tutor Training courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82141]

(14) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in Organising and Recruitment for Trade Unions courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82142]

(15) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in Organising and Recruitment for Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives - Occupational Health and Safety courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82143]

(16) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in Trade Union Representatives - Contemporary Trade Unionism courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82144]

(17) how many diplomas were awarded to participants in Trade Union Health Representatives - Employment Law courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years; which institutions taught these courses; and what the cost was in each year; [82145]

Mr Hayes: Since April 2010, the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has been responsible for funding post-19 Further Education (FE) and Skills provision delivered through FE colleges and training organisations (the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) had this responsibility from 2001).

Each academic year, FE colleges and training organisations receive a post-19 funding allocation at the programme level (for example budgets for Adult Skills, Adult Safeguarded Learning and/or Offender Learning and Skills). As funding is not allocated at the learning aim level the amount of money spent on TUC learning aims is not recorded centrally by the Skills Funding Agency (or the LSC previously).

I have made data available in the Libraries of the House showing the number of Government-funded FE enrolments for Trade Union representative Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) courses by level, provider name and funding rate. The QCF system was introduced in 2009/10, therefore only data for 2009/10 have been included, this is the latest year for which final enrolment data are available.

Information on FE and skills participation, enrolments and achievements is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on FE and skills enrolments by aim title for academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 is available in the National Aims Report:

http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/learners/

EDUCATION

Academies

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have *(a)* become academies and *(b)* applied to become academies in each (i) region and (ii) parliamentary constituency since May 2010. [79222]

Mr Gibb: As of 1 November 2011, 1,100 schools in England had successfully converted to academy status, while 1,600 schools (including the open converted academies) had applied to convert to academy status. The precise number of open converted academies and applications to convert in each region and in each constituency has been placed in the House Libraries.

Academies: Finance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons he awarded funding from the public purse to an academy in Lincolnshire for the purposes of purchasing a property in France; and if he will make a statement. [77223]

Mr Gibb: Academies have considerable flexibility in deciding how they use their resources and the property was purchased for educational purposes using that flexibility. Approval was given in September 2009.

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80060]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education publishes all ministerial and permanent secretaries' meetings with external organisations on a quarterly basis. The information can be viewed at the following links:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a0065263/ministers-quarterly-returns

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a0075403/the-permanent-secretarys-meetings-with-external-organisations

The Information for April to June 2011 will be published in due course. The information for July to September 2011 is being collated.

The additional information requested for each of the five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Disability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial and other support is in place to ensure that individuals aged 16 in receipt of disability living allowance are equipped to make informed and responsible financial decisions. [79882]

Mr Gibb: Under the terms of the new 16-19 bursary fund which was introduced in September 2011, the most vulnerable young people are eligible for a bursary of £1,200 a year—more than they could have received under education maintenance allowance (EMA). This includes disabled young people in receipt of both employment support allowance and disability living allowance.

When we announced the ending of EMA, we set out plans for transitional support for the majority of young people who had received EMA in 2010/11 and were continuing in post-16 education or training in 2011/12. Some young people in receipt of disability living allowance may be receiving weekly payments under these arrangements. It is of course important that young people know how to use their money wisely and make responsible financial decisions. Personal finance is covered within the economic wellbeing and financial capability strand of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education for young people under 16. This is a non-statutory programme of study which gives teachers the flexibility to tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils. Young people aged 16 and over have access to the independent Money Advice Service which was set up by the Government to give free, unbiased money advice to help people make informed choices. Their advice and information is available online, over the phone and face-to-face.

NDPBs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials were *(a)* directly and *(b)* otherwise employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) in 2000, (ii) in 2005, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2010 and (v) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [78122]

Tim Loughton: The Department was created on 11 May 2010 and employed 2,622 civil servants at that time. The Department currently employs 2,594 civil servants. Information on the public servants currently employed in Department's non-departmental public bodies[1] can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00199711/monthly-workforce-management-information-2011

Historical data for these bodies is a matter for them and is not held centrally.

Contact information for them can be found at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/b0065313/disclosure-of-scs-posts-and-salary-information

[1] Not arm's length bodies as this term includes non-ministerial departments and a public corporation.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will publish the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration of each private finance initiative contract managed by his Department; [76536]

(2) what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* date of commencement and *(c)* duration is of each private finance initiative contract managed by his Department. [82208]

Mr Gibb *[holding answers 27 October and 23 November 2011]:* Information on the private initiative contracts managed by the Department is available on the Treasury's website and can be accessed by using the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations (i) Ministers and (ii) senior officials in his Department have spoken in each month since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [76787]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 25 October 2011]:* Since May 2010, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and the rest of his ministerial team have attended many events organised by a wide range of organisations.

The level of detailed information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A range of speeches by the Department for Education ministerial team can be found at the following link:

http://education.gov.uk/inthenews/speeches

Family Intervention Programme

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 201-02W, on the family intervention programme, when his Department expects to set the budget for family intervention projects in each of the next four years. [76946]

Tim Loughton: We plan to make a decision on future funding for family intervention projects shortly. Funding up to March 2012 is included as part of the DfE £2.2 billion Early Intervention Grant.

Free Schools

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free schools do not use the national curriculum; and how many do not use nationally negotiated pay agreements to determine teacher pay. [78634]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Department does not hold this information. As with academies, all mainstream free schools have freedoms over the curriculum they deliver, provided it is broad and balanced. Similarly, free schools are able to set their own pay and conditions for their staff.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which free schools have *(a)* opened and *(b)* been approved to open in each (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [79220]

Mr Gibb: The first 24 mainstream Free Schools opened in September 2011. The names and locations of these schools are shown by region in the following table. At this stage no other schools have been approved to open in 2012 or beyond.

Region	*School name*	*Local authority*	*Constituency*
East Midlands	Krishna-Avanti Primary School	Leicester City	Leicester East
East of England	Moorlands Free School	Luton	Luton North
East of England	Free School Norwich	Norfolk	Norwich South
East of England	Stour Valley Community School	Suffolk	South Suffolk
London	Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Hendon
London	St Luke's Church of England Primary School	Camden	Hampstead and Kilburn
London	Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy	Enfield	Edmonton
London	ARK Conway Academy	Hammersmith and Fulham	Hammersmith
London	West London Free School	Hammersmith and Fulham	Hammersmith
London	Eden Primary School	Haringey	Hornsey & Wood Green
London	Aldborough E-ACT Free School	Redbridge	Ilford South
London	Canary Wharf College	Tower Hamlets	Poplar and Limehouse
London	ARK Atwood Academy	Westminster	Westminster North
North West	Sandbach School	Cheshire East	Congleton
North West	Maharishi School	Lancashire	West Lancashire
South East	All Saints Junior School	Reading	Reading West
South East	Langley Hall Primary Academy	Slough	Slough
South East	Discovery New School	West Sussex	Crawley
South West	Bristol Free School	Bristol	Bristol North West
West Midlands	Nishkam Free School	Birmingham	Birmingham Perry Barr
West Midlands	Priors Free School	Warwickshire	Kenilworth and Southam
Yorkshire and Humber	Bradford Science Academy	Bradford	Bradford South
Yorkshire and Humber	Rainbow Free School	Bradford	Bradford West
Yorkshire and Humber	Batley Grammar School	Kirklees	Batley and Spen

Free Schools: Finance

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 287W, on free schools, what the threshold percentage is set out in the funding agreement of each free school relating to any shortfall or increase in pupil numbers. [81123]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Funding agreements for each of the free schools that opened in September 2011 will be published in due course.

Child Exploitation

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department requires from local safeguarding children boards in respect of child exploitation. [81890]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not require Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to submit any information about child exploitation.

However, this is an extremely important issue which the Government take very seriously. LSCBs have a key role in ensuring that local multi-agency arrangements are in place to help and protect children and young people from all forms of child abuse, including child sexual exploitation. The national child sexual exploitation action plan, which the Government will publish shortly, will contain a clear message that every LSCB needs to treat child sexual exploitation as a priority and to assure itself that local service provision are informed by a robust assessment of the local situation.

New Schools Network: Finance

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) for how long he intends to continue funding work being undertaken by the New Schools Network; [80274]

(2) what assessment was made of the value for money of work being undertaken by the New Schools Network, funded by his Department, prior to its grant funding being renewed in October 2011; and if he will publish this assessment; [80275]

(3) what assessment was made of the need to continue to fund work undertaken by the New Schools Network prior to its grant funding being renewed in October 2011; and if he will publish this assessment. [80276]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 November 2011]*: Officials assessed both the performance and value for money of the New Schools Network's (NSN) work throughout the original grant period. NSN was found to have played a major role in assisting groups to submit quality applications to the Department; for example of the 24 Free Schools that opened this year, 22 had received advice and guidance from NSN. In the 2012 mainstream application process NSN supported over 80% of those approved by the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), to move to the pre-opening phase of development.

These figures, supplemented by feedback from groups who contacted NSN for help, clearly demonstrate the value of the support to groups in developing their Free School applications. That is why we assessed that there was an ongoing need for an organisation to provide similar pre-application support and ran an open competition to offer a grant for these services from 1 November 2011 to 31 March 2013 (with a possible one-year extension). We have no plans to publish any specific information relating to these assessments.

Child Exploitation

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of recent trends in localised grooming and child sexual exploitation. [81891]

Tim Loughton: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre carried out a thematic assessment of child sexual exploitation, with particular reference to 'localised grooming', earlier this year. The CEOP report 'Out of Mind, Out of Sight: Breaking down the barriers to understanding child sexual exploitation', published in June 2011, provided an outline of trends, themes and patterns. These were, however, based on a limited number of responses to a request to local agencies for data and the CEOP report acknowledged that findings from the thematic assessment were not fully representative.

The Government have published a national action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation. This will emphasise the importance of undertaking further research to improve understanding of child sexual exploitation and inform effective responses to it. It will look forward to findings becoming available from the recently launched inquiry by the Office of the Children's Commissioner into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups.

Private Finance Initiative: Correspondence

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and local authorities relating to the private finance initiative since May 2010. [73429]

Mr Gibb: The correspondence between the Department and local authorities is vast and varies depending on an individual local authority. We intend to keep correspondence on the private finance initiative in the Libraries only if it relates to parliamentary question on a particular issue, parliamentary debates or a parliamentary commitment that has been made in the House.

The Secretary of State for Education made an oral statement on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 792, to announce the new private finance programme, the Priority School Building Programme.

Pupil Premium

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many payments of the pupil premium his Department made in the 2011-12 school year. [81524]

Mr Gibb: The Pupil Premium is paid on a financial year basis. Two Pupil Premium payments have been made by the Department in financial year 2011-2012, in June 2011 and September 2011. A further two will be made in December 2011 and March 2012 for the 2011-12 financial year.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average level of expenditure per child in primary schools has been in each local education authority since May 2010. [81346]

Mr Gibb: The available information on the average level of expenditure per child in primary schools in each local education authority for 2009-10 is shown in the following table. The information for 2010-11 is currently being collected and will be available in January 2012 when it will be published as Official Statistics.

Expenditure per child in primary schools in each local education authority for 2009-10

LEA name	*Schools net current expenditure (£)*	*Number of pupils (at January 2010)*	*Schools net current expenditure per pupil (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	76,107,603	20,144	3,778.18
Barnet	115,892,685	27,169	4,265.62
Barnsley	71,604,124	19,228	3,723.95
Bath and North East Somerset	42,525,877	11,839	3,592.02
Bedford Borough	34,109,922	9,288	3,672.47
Bexley	73,893,283	20,259	3,647.43
Birmingham	423,899,402	102,093	4,152.09
Blackburn with Darwen	55,296,671	14,316	3,862.58
Blackpool	41,458,398	11,338	3,656.59
Bolton	86,312,728	25,138	3,433.56
Bournemouth	35,829,409	10,246	3,496.92
Bracknell Forest	29,375,878	8,903	3,299.55
Bradford	205,535,828	53,648	3,831.19
Brent	110,059,737	24,247	4,539.11
Brighton and Hove	58,882,527	17,340	3,395.76
Bristol, City of	108,746,780	29,430	3,695.10
Bromley	84,839,273	23,706	3,578.81
Buckinghamshire	141,407,586	39,859	3,547.70
Bury	56,927,312	16,154	3,524.04
Calderdale	69,677,837	18,734	3,719.33
Cambridgeshire	158,138,819	43,932	3,599.63
Camden	61,524,584	11,489	5,355.09
Central Bedfordshire	56,697,569	15,789	3,590.95

Expenditure per child in primary schools in each local education authority for 2009-10

LEA name	Schools net current expenditure (£)	Number of pupils (at January 2010)	Schools net current expenditure per pupil (£)
Cheshire East	94,933,406	26,858	3,534.64
Cheshire West and Chester	92,980,311	24,982	3,721.89
City of London	1,569,788	233	6,737.29
Cornwall	136,310,776	37,462	3,638.64
Coventry	101,951,283	27,599	3,694.02
Croydon	114,697,987	29,345	3,908.60
Cumbria	143,607,324	37,484	3,831.16
Darlington	30,109,902	8,801	3,421.19
Derby	80,202,059	21,551	3,721.50
Derbyshire	204,362,732	58,830	3,473.78
Devon	185,583,809	51,855	3,578.90
Doncaster	93,171,703	25,896	3,597.92
Dorset	85,752,768	23,753	3,610.19
Dudley	98,723,282	26,792	3,684.80
Durham	157,915,967	39,538	3,994.03
Ealing	113,449,100	27,771	4,085.16
East Riding of Yorkshire	87,334,545	24,476	3,568.17
East Sussex	124,705,555	34,898	3,573.43
Enfield	123,339,380	28,679	4,300.69
Essex	385,120,038	104,289	3,692.82
Gateshead	56,136,992	15,170	3,700.53
Gloucestershire	152,347,209	41,593	3,662.81
Greenwich	97,664,725	21,752	4,489.92
Hackney	99,455,748	18,074	5,502.70
Halton	40,185,661	9,971	4,030.25
Hammersmith and Fulham	49,650,712	9,940	4,995.04
Hampshire	350,088,346	94,440	3,706.99
Haringey	101,353,676	21,952	4,617.06
Harrow	80,511,482	19,793	4,067.67
Hartlepool	33,809,976	8,665	3,901.90
Havering	71,441,203	19,228	3,715.48
Herefordshire	46,416,670	12,382	3,748.72
Hertfordshire	319,574,673	92,917	3,439.36
Hillingdon	98,917,484	25,339	3,903.76
Hounslow	79,586,985	19,646	4,051.05
Isle of Wight	25,860,813	6,293	4,109.46
Isles of Scilly	2,314,102	275	8,414.92
Islington	76,654,768	13,813	5,549.47
Kensington and Chelsea	37,717,271	7,046	5,353.00
Kent	395,772,125	108,669	3,642.00
Kingston upon Hull, City of	76,159,242	21,012	3,624.56
Kingston upon Thames	46,566,402	12,153	3,831.68
Kirklees	141,024,061	35,923	3,925.73
Knowsley	53,088,820	14,223	3,732.60
Lambeth	120,571,779	20,848	5,783.37
Lancashire	340,372,347	89,941	3,784.40
Leeds	227,060,731	61,545	3,689.34
Leicester	102,106,757	28,099	3,633.82
Leicestershire	170,178,659	46,950	3,624.68
Lewisham	108,596,577	22,040	4,927.25
Lincolnshire	177,571,361	50,610	3,508.62
Liverpool	145,650,531	35,665	4,083.85
Luton	78,565,026	19,161	4,100.26
Manchester	170,982,396	41,604	4,109.76

Expenditure per child in primary schools in each local education authority for 2009-10

LEA name	Schools net current expenditure (£)	Number of pupils (at January 2010)	Schools net current expenditure per pupil (£)
Medway	85,048,464	22,196	3,831.70
Merton	60,000,743	16,133	3,719.13
Middlesbrough	50,943,833	13,661	3,729.14
Milton Keynes	81,189,426	21,884	3,709.99
Newcastle upon Tyne	73,425,050	19,237	3,816.87
Newham	148,840,145	31,984	4,653.58
Norfolk	220,346,213	58,632	3,758.12
North East Lincolnshire	49,435,559	13,390	3,695.71
North Lincolnshire	47,834,783	13,598	3,517.78
North Somerset	54,926,731	15,245	3,602.93
North Tyneside	53,249,543	15,785	3,373.43
North Yorkshire	158,685,223	42,761	3,710.98
Northamptonshire	194,286,673	55,686	3,488.97
Northumberland	68,595,889	17,912	3,829.61
Nottingham	94,474,078	23,177	4,076.20
Nottinghamshire	229,230,972	62,442	3,671.10
Oldham	85,952,239	23,499	3,657.70
Oxfordshire	166,070,954	47,668	3,483.91
Peterborough	59,555,606	15,795	3,770.54
Plymouth	67,251,760	18,579	3,619.77
Poole	34,532,838	10,135	3,407.29
Portsmouth	54,210,067	13,929	3,891.89
Reading	39,398,180	10,930	3,604.59
Redbridge	95,347,930	26,200	3,639.23
Redcar and Cleveland	46,076,334	12,434	3,705.67
Richmond upon Thames	50,609,371	13,882	3,645.68
Rochdale	73,934,972	19,307	3,829.44
Rotherham	84,054,950	22,671	3,707.60
Rutland	9,453,221	2,542	3,718.81
Salford	70,570,625	19,080	3,698.67
Sandwell	116,207,662	30,280	3,837.77
Sefton	83,850,185	21,706	3,863.00
Sheffield	152,028,530	41,770	3,639.66
Shropshire	69,256,167	20,839	3,323.39
Slough	47,879,873	12,860	3,723.16
Solihull	62,881,038	19,183	3,277.96
Somerset	131,346,551	35,387	3,711.72
South Gloucestershire	69,704,101	20,847	3,343.60
South Tyneside	45,180,742	11,811	3,825.31
Southampton	61,335,855	16,152	3,797.42
Southend-on-Sea	51,613,366	13,438	3,840.85
Southwark	121,396,666	22,380	5,424.34
St Helens	53,418,429	14,620	3,653.79
Staffordshire	213,900,775	60,940	3,510.02
Stockport	78,969,937	22,563	3,499.98
Stockton-on-Tees	57,625,863	17,414	3,309.17
Stoke-on-Trent	74,294,731	21,008	3,536.50
Suffolk	158,017,778	44,635	3,540.22
Sunderland	85,187,462	22,440	3,796.23
Surrey	287,404,817	79,501	3,615.11
Sutton	54,885,163	14,886	3,687.03
Swindon	57,645,072	16,355	3,524.61

Expenditure per child in primary schools in each local education authority for 2009-10

LEA name	*Schools net current expenditure (£)*	*Number of pupils (at January 2010)*	*Schools net current expenditure per pupil (£)*
Tameside	67,521,761	19,747	3,419.34
Telford and Wrekin	48,123,282	14,048	3,425.63
Thurrock	50,503,976	14,032	3,599.20
Torbay	32,214,013	9,532	3,379.56
Tower Hamlets	133,380,388	23,212	5,746.18
Trafford	64,446,260	19,667	3,276.87
Wakefield	97,835,514	27,911	3,505.27
Walsall	98,266,274	25,716	3,821.21
Waltham Forest	93,293,760	22,196	4,203.18
Wandsworth	85,869,421	17,815	4,820.06
Warrington	60,146,978	17,267	3,483.35
Warwickshire	139,445,746	39,929	3,492.34
West Berkshire	45,435,507	12,344	3,680.78
West Sussex	202,350,265	56,398	3,587.90
Westminster	56,119,977	11,272	4,978.71
Wigan	93,049,493	25,382	3,665.96
Wiltshire	122,754,533	34,151	3,594.46
Windsor and Maidenhead	31,198,249	8,748	3,566.33
Wirral	91,829,874	25,190	3,645.49
Wokingham	42,061,697	12,457	3,376.55
Wolverhampton	84,505,311	21,959	3,848.32
Worcestershire	135,043,167	38,303	3,525.66
York	44,868,421	12,936	3,468.49

Notes:
1. The data are taken from the local authorities section 251 Outturn statement for 2009-10, Table A line 56 Schools Net Current Expenditure and School Census.
2. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 13 December 2010.
3. Net current expenditure is rounded to the nearest £.

Schools: Buildings

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what criteria he used to determine the priorities for the Property Data Survey Programme; [81432]

(2) whether the Property Data Survey Programme will include any assessment of the condition of asbestos; and if he will make a statement; [81433]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the condition of asbestos in school buildings; and what estimate he has made of the costs of *(a)* managing asbestos in situ and *(b)* demolishing and rebuilding schools containing asbestos; [81434]

(4) what assessment he has made of the findings of the report by Nottinghamshire county council on the cost of rebuilding or refurbishing school buildings containing asbestos. [81435]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Property Data Survey (PDS) Programme will take into account both the condition and the priority of the work to elements of buildings, external areas and playing fields.

Condition will be graded on a scale of A to D, where A is classified as good and D as bad. In addition to the condition grade the priority of work will be captured on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 is urgent work and 4 is work which will be required in the longer term. To minimise burdens we are applying the same condition and priority grading system that has been used by local authorities for asset management planning purposes since 1999.

The data collected will be used to provide evidence of the current condition of schools, and enable future maintenance funding allocations to be focused on the buildings with the greatest need.

Property data surveys will not include an assessment of asbestos, the responsibility for which currently lies and will remain with local authorities and schools under the Control of Asbestos Regulations. However while carrying out the PDS the surveyor will seek confirmation that the school has carried out their statutory obligations and if not will direct them to the Department's website and relevant guidance.

The responsibility for assessing the condition of asbestos in school buildings lies with the local duty holder for the particular school. We have not made an estimate of the cost of managing asbestos in situ or demolishing and rebuilding schools containing asbestos.

Partnerships for Schools received a report from Nottinghamshire county council, "Issues of Using CLASP to transform learning—Nottinghamshire County Council". This addresses the best value for money approach to refurbishing or rebuilding CLASP schools and includes some consideration of how to deal with asbestos in these buildings. The report showed the high cost of refurbishment of CLASP buildings and that in many cases it is more cost-effective to rebuild than to refurbish and remodel such buildings. We are not aware of another report from Nottinghamshire county council specifically addressing the cost of rebuilding or refurbishing school buildings containing asbestos.

Schools: Fires

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether his Department plans to review Building Bulletin 100: Design for fire safety in schools; and if he will make a statement; [79038]

(2) whether his planned review of school building regulations will consider fire safety; [79039]

(3) whether his Department has assessed the costs and benefits of installing sprinklers in new schools. [79040]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 November 2011]:* On 3 November the Department issued a public consultation document "Standards for School Premises". This document includes our proposals to revise the school premises regulations and to reduce significantly the amount of guidance on school premises.

Fire safety, including the fire resistance of building elements and provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire, is covered in Part B of the Building Regulations, but more generally by the RRF03 (as cited in Part 3 of the ISSs). We think that it is unnecessary to duplicate the requirements of the RRFO in school premises regulations.

We propose to withdraw all documents that are of limited value and streamline the rest. It is our intention to consolidate our regulatory guidance including BB100.

Regulatory guidance includes requirements for compliance with the building regulations and illustrates how compliance can be achieved.

The costs and benefits of installing sprinkler systems varies with the type of school, its location and the incidence of crime. The Department has published a cost benefit analysis tool for sprinklers and other fire and security measures which is available on the Department's website. It is intended for use by local authorities and schools to calculate the cost benefit for a particular school. A cost analysis of sprinklers in schools that was carried out on behalf of the Department in 2007 is also available on the website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/buildingsanddesign/environmental/a0063718/fire-safety-design-guidance-building-bulletin-100

Schools: Solar Power

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the potential cost to schools, colleges and other educational buildings for which photovoltaic solar panels were planned arising from the proposed reductions in feed-in tariffs. [81084]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold information on take-up and use of photovoltaic solar panels in education establishments. Therefore, I am not able to estimate the impact of changes to feed-in tariffs.

Schools: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding was allocated to schools in Warrington in each of the last five years, including the pupil premium for 2011-12. [76379]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* The available information on how much funding *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding was allocated to schools in Warrington in each of the last five years, including the pupil premium for 2011-12 is shown as follows:

(a) Capital figures for Warrington (for Partnership for Schools managed programmes)

	£ million
2006-07	12.7
2007-08	11.7
2008-09	14
2009-10	37.6
2010-11	19.3
2011-12 (provisional)	5.6

(b) Revenue funding allocated to schools in Warrington excluding pupil premium

	£
2007-08	117,186,325
2008-09	120,393,189
2009-10	123,572,276
2010-11	127,340,094
2011-12	133,062,958

(c) Warrington has been allocated a total of £1.72 million for the pupil premium in 2011-12.

Training: Citizenship

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason he has decided that there should be no training bursary available for PGCE citizenship courses. [81650]

Mr Gibb: Trainees currently receive no bursary for PGCE citizenship courses. Bursaries are an additional incentive, on top of the full package of student support, to attract teacher trainees. Citizenship has a good record in attracting enough high quality trainees to meet the demand from schools for new teachers. We will therefore continue not to offer a bursary for citizenship for those who train in 2012/13. We review ITT bursaries each year to ensure that they reflect the level of supply and demand for trainees in each subject.

Young People: Education

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young parents were in receipt of care to learn funding in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Middlesbrough local authority area, *(c)* Redcar and Cleveland local authority area, *(d)* Teesside, *(e)* the North East and *(f)* nationally in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such recipients were aged 19 years or over. [80765]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Care to Learn allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 24 November 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ80765 that asks:

"How many young parents were in receipt of care to learn funding in (a) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, (b) Middlesbrough local authority area, (c) Redcar and Cleveland local authority area, (d) Teesside, (e) the North East and (f) nationally in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such recipients were aged 19 years or over."

The academic year 2010/11 is the last year for which these figures are currently available. The numbers of young parents who received funding through the Care to Learn scheme in the 2010/11 academic year in the areas you requested are in the following table. These are the take-up figures as at 31 August 2011.

Areallocal authority (LA)	*Aged 19 years or over*	*Total care to learn take-up*
Middlesbrough LA	7	38
Redcar and Cleveland LA	7	29
North East	146	509
National	2,133	6,622

This information is only available by local authority area, and so we are unable to provide figures for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency and Teesside.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Capture and Storage

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on the Longannet Carbon Capture and Storage project since it was established. [82356]

Charles Hendry: The Department has spent £60.3 million on the Longannet Carbon Capture and Storage project since it was established to the end of October 2011.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82576]

Gregory Barker: Official photographs are taken when Ministers or senior officials arrive in the Department if required and where a pre-existing photo is not available. Photos of DECC's four Ministers were taken by in-house staff on arrival in May 2010 and have since been used in publications and the departmental website. No photographs of senior officials have been taken since May 2010. There are no designated members of staff expected to undertake photography as part of their duties.

Double Glazing

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of domestic properties without double glazing. [82762]

Gregory Barker: The latest English Housing Survey report, published in July 2011, shows that in 2009 only 9% of English homes had no double glazing at all, and only 27% were without full double glazing:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1937212.pdf

Electricity Generation

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will re-open his Department's consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism to seek views on the issue of phantom megawatts; [82471]

(2) what consideration his Department gave to phantom megawatts in its recent consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism. [82472]

Gregory Barker: The recent consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism considered high level options for a capacity mechanism.

The chosen capacity mechanism design will be announced in a technical update to the White Paper, which will be published around the turn of the year. The detailed design of the mechanism will be developed in the next phase of the project.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change will not reopen the Department's consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will urge the National Grid to introduce a full metering system to measure accurately the capacity supplied by short term operating reserve aggregators; [82473]

(2) what his policy is on establishing an independent auditor of the performance of short term operating reserve aggregators. [82474]

Gregory Barker: National Grid has a metering system to accurately measure the capacity supplied by short term operating reserve aggregators in place.

To monitor and despatch services from demand side response providers such as aggregators, National Grid installs a standing reserve despatch (SRD) system. This is connected to the reserve provider's metering equipment to allow the amount of reserve from each contracted provider to be read each minute and communicated back to National Grid. Following installation, National Grid then has the discretion to ascertain the accuracy and adequacy of the metering equipment providing the metering signals and of the resultant data sent to the SRD system.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change does not plan to establish an independent auditor of the performance of short term operating reserve aggregators.

Energy: Business

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the energy-intensive industries due to receive mitigation from the effect of the carbon floor price will be given the opportunity to review any measures before they are announced. [81907]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* I am working closely with Government colleagues to deliver the commitment the Government gave earlier this year to create a package of measures to support those energy intensive industries whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies. We will announce details before the end of the year.

We have welcomed industry's helpful input to the development of the package through the Green Economy Council Energy Intensive Industries sub-group. I have also met several times with chief executives of energy intensive industries here and in Germany. There are no further plans to discuss measures before our announcement.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether there will be a further meeting of the Economy Council sub-group for energy-intensive industries to review plans for mitigation from the carbon price floor; and whether individual businesses will be consulted on site-specific mitigation before it is announced. [82060]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* I am working closely with Government colleagues to deliver the commitment the Government gave earlier this year to create a package of measures to support those energy intensive industries whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies. We will announce details before the end of the year.

We have welcomed industry's helpful input to the development of the package through the Green Economy Council Energy Intensive Industries sub-group. I have also met several times with chief executives of energy intensive industries here and in Germany. There are no further plans to discuss measures before our announcement.

Energy: Meters

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether smart meter rental companies will be regulated. [82025]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem is currently undertaking a review of metering arrangements in the gas and electricity sectors which includes consideration of the role of meter asset providers or "meter rental companies". Under the current arrangements, suppliers are obliged to ensure their meter providers are "fit and proper" to undertake these activities.

The Government will consider any recommendations made by Ofgem as part of their review of current metering arrangements, in the context of the wider changes to the regulatory framework in the gas and electricity markets being made as part of the smart meter programme.

Energy: Prices

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of energy companies offering discounted prices to new customers only on competition in the energy market; [82156]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ofgem on the issue of energy companies offering discounted prices to new customers only; [82157]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the number of energy companies operating loss-making tariffs in order to attract new customers; and if he will make a statement. [82158]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials regularly meet with the Regulator and energy suppliers to discuss a range of market issues.

Following their Probe in 2008, Ofgem introduced new rules to prohibit undue discrimination and to ensure cost reflective pricing between payment methods. In order to allow suppliers to compete for new customers, these rules allow suppliers to offer time limited, introductory tariffs.

Competition is vital to ensure consumers get the best possible deal in the marketplace. Part of ensuring effective competition is opening the market to new entrants and it is therefore important that small suppliers are not disadvantaged if larger suppliers are cross-subsidising loss leader deals to attract new customers by charging their 'sticky' customers higher prices and we have therefore asked Ofgem to look into this issue.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will take steps to prevent energy companies offering heavily discounted deals only to new customers; [82234]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with major energy companies on their pricing policies. [82235]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers and officials regularly meet with the Regulator and energy suppliers to discuss a range of market issues.

Following their Probe in 2008, Ofgem introduced new rules to prohibit undue discrimination and to ensure cost reflective pricing between payment methods. In order to allow suppliers to compete for new customers, these rules allow suppliers to offer time limited, introductory tariffs.

It is important that existing customers are not disadvantaged if suppliers are cross-subsidising loss leader deals to attract new customers by charging existing customers higher prices and it is also vital that customers can move to the lowest tariff consistent with their needs, which should save them money. We have therefore asked Ofgem to look into this issue.

Environment Protection: Taxation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with groups who support the introduction of measures to assist energy intensive businesses affected by the carbon price floor, but who are not included in the Economy Council sub-group for energy-intensive industries, to review plans for mitigation from the carbon price floor; and what the outcome was of such meetings; [82514]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with groups opposed to the introduction of measures to assist energy intensive businesses affected by the carbon price floor; and what the outcome was of those meetings. [82515]

Gregory Barker: I am working closely with Government colleagues to deliver the commitment the Government gave earlier this year, 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 176-177, to create a package of measures to support those energy intensive industries whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies. We will announce details before the end of the year.

DECC Ministers and officials have met, and receive representations from a range of stakeholders in the development of this package, including non-governmental organisations, trade associations, and individual companies. Neither DECC Ministers nor officials have received representations opposing the objective to provide support in a package of measures as set out by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of mitigating the effect of the carbon price floor on energy intensive industries on the policy's aim of providing certainty and support for low-carbon investment; and if he will make a statement; [82516]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wirral West (Esther McVey) of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 643-4W, on taxation: environment protection, what assessment he has made of the effect of measures to mitigate the effect of the carbon price floor on energy intensive industries on emissions from electricity generation; and if he will make a statement. [82517]

Gregory Barker: I am working closely with Government colleagues to deliver the commitment the Government gave earlier this year to create a package of measures to support those energy intensive industries whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies. We will announce details before the end of the year.

Government Buildings: Solar Power

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with other Departments on the installation of solar PV on *(a)* any Whitehall department buildings and *(b)* any other Government-owned properties; and whether such installations would be eligible for solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs. [82236]

Gregory Barker: The Department has had no such discussions.

The eligibility of individual installations for the feed-in tariffs (FITs) is a matter for Ofgem and licensed electricity suppliers. There is nothing specifically precluding solar photovoltaic installations on Government-owned buildings being eligible for FITs, if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Heating Systems

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether future revisions to the Code for Sustainable Homes will specify the types of central heating systems that are acceptable; and what consideration he has given to the potential effects of any such revisions on *(a)* fuel costs and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions. [R] [82784]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The Code for Sustainable Homes is similar to the building regulations in that it sets performance targets to be met, combined with a functional (technology-neutral) approach to sustainable development to help encourage innovation in this sector. The code does not specify particular products or systems to meet outcomes. Future revisions to the code in respect of central heating will reflect the direction of travel of forthcoming revisions to Part L of the building regulations, which are underpinning the Government's policy for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016. Where changes to the code are proposed, these will be subject to impact assessment examining cost issues and the likely effects on emissions.

International Physical Protection Advisory Service

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information *(a)* his Department and *(b)* nuclear operators provided to the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) in support of its visit to Sellafield and Barrow; what conclusions were reached by IPPAS; and if he will place in the Library a redacted copy of the final report by IPPAS. [82376]

Charles Hendry: The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) Mission Team were presented with a range of background material on the legal and regulatory framework for civil nuclear security by my Department and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Sellafield Ltd and International Nuclear Services provided background information on how this framework is implemented at the Sellafield site and Barrow port.

The IPPAS Mission Team concluded that the state of civil nuclear security in the UK is robust; both in the context of the legal and regulatory framework and how this is implemented at Sellafield site and Barrow. The team also identified many examples of good practice in the UK civil nuclear security regime and provided a number of valuable recommendations and suggestions.

The IPPAS Mission Team's report is a security classified document that contains sensitive site-specific security information and it cannot be made publicly available.

Nuclear Installations: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to respond to the recommendations for specific actions by his Department made by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations in his report on the implications of the Fukushima nuclear accident for the UK nuclear industry; and whether he has estimated the cost to his Department of implementation of all such recommendations. [82307]

Charles Hendry: As the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change noted in his written ministerial statement of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 20WS, the Government intend to respond to Dr Weightman's recommendations in more detail by the end of the year.

As with the response to Dr Weightman's interim report, we will set out what we have done, and what we intend to do, to address the recommendations most pertinent to Government.

Nuclear safety is a top priority and as such any associated costs to the Department will be borne out of the overall departmental budget.

Nuclear Power: Foreign Investment in UK

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what reports he has received of interest expressed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in supporting inward investment by Toshiba in the UK commercial nuclear power programme; and if he will make a statement. [82074]

Gregory Barker: We are aware that the Japan Bank for International Cooperation is interested in supporting Japanese industry investment in large-scale infrastructure projects globally.

The consideration of any specific investment by Toshiba, or any other inward investor in the UK, would be a matter for the company themselves.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which representatives from the solar photovoltaic industry he consulted when drawing up his timetable for the implementation of and consultation on the new rates for solar photovoltaic tariffs. [79824]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 21 November 2011]:* Ministers and officials meet regularly with a range of stakeholders from the solar photovoltaic industry.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of bankruptcies that will occur in the UK solar industry as a result of planned changes to feed-in tariffs. [81079]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold relevant information on which to base any estimate of potential bankruptcies. The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV), available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The impact assessment does not estimate the specific impact of the proposed changes on the UK solar industry as a whole.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of *(a)* consultations and *(b)* fast track reviews on feed-in tariffs for solar PV has been since May 2010. [82246]

Gregory Barker: The central FITs team in DECC, with support from DECC economists and lawyers, and others where necessary, deals with all aspects of the feed-in tariffs scheme, including consultations and the reviews, so there are no separate costs available for these aspects of the FITs scheme.

In addition £41,400 was paid for economic modelling to support the work of DECC economists.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Covenant

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department plans to *(a)* interpret and *(b)* apply the Military Covenant under the terms of the Armed Forces Act 2010. [81896]

Mr Robathan: The previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced the publication of the new tri-service armed forces covenant on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-27, setting out the key relationships between the armed forces, the Government and the nation. The covenant set out the principles of removing disadvantage in the access to public and commercial services and making special provision in some circumstances. It sets a framework for policy making and delivery across Government and will improve the support available for the armed forces community.

The new Armed Forces Act 2011 creates the requirement for an annual armed forces covenant report to Parliament. It specifies that the armed forces covenant report must cover the areas of health care, education, housing and inquests, as well as any other topics which the Secretary of State for Defence thinks appropriate. When considering what will be covered, the Secretary of State for Defence will have regard to the full range of topics which were identified as within the scope of the armed forces covenant when it was published.

The statutory requirement for an annual armed forces covenant report comes into effect from 2012. However we plan to publish an interim report this year, which will provide a useful baseline for the statutory reports that will follow.

Defence Equipment and Support

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget his Department allocated for Defence Equipment and Support in the financial year 2011-12; how much of that budget has already been spent; and what estimate he has made of likely out-turn at the end of the financial year. [81900]

Peter Luff: The full year near cash budget for Defence Equipment and Support in financial year 2011-12, as at October 2011, is £150,201 million. As at October 2011, spend to date totalled £75,722 million and the current forecast for outturn at the end of the financial year is within budget allocation. Both figures exclude depreciation, write offs, urgent operational requirements and the net additional cost of military operations. Fully audited out-turn figures will be provided as part of the annual accounts.

Defence: Procurement

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescale for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Type 45 destroyer project. [80516]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* As recorded in the Major Project Report 2011 recently published by the National Audit Office, the original projected cost for six Type 45 destroyers, including the Principal Anti-Air Missile System (PAAMS) was approximately £4.75 billion. Currently, the forecasted final cost is approximately £5.66 billion. The in-service schedule for all six Type 45 destroyers is as follows:

Daring: 2010

Dauntless: 2010

Diamond: 2011

Dragon: 2012

Defender: 2013

Duncan: 2014.

The Type 45 destroyers are not delivered by a consortium but by the prime contractor, BAE Systems Surface Ships. The PAAMS system is delivered and supported by MBDA.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the A400M project. [80807]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The initial approved cost for the A400M aircraft was £2.498 billion, and the current forecast cost to the UK of the A400M is £3.105 billion (including training and initial support). This increase is largely due to macro-economic factors including the foreign exchange rate against the Euro. The first UK A400M delivery is expected in September 2014 with the final UK aircraft delivery expected in September 2021. The A400M prime contractor is Airbus Military Sociedad Limitada. In addition to the United Kingdom, the other A400M partner nations are Belgium, France, Germany, Spain and Turkey.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Terrier Project. [81167]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The original budgetary approval for Terrier was £304 million. The forecast final cost for demonstration and manufacture is some £328 million, which reflects the incorporation of customer driven requirement changes to ensure the vehicle can meet the operational challenges it is likely to face. The first 20 vehicles will be ready for operations in 2013, and all 60 will be in service by the end of 2014. The prime contractor is BAE Systems Global Combat Systems and the programme does not have any other consortium members.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Land Environment Air Picture Provision project. [81169]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The original cash approval for the Land Environment Air Picture Provision (LEAPP) project was £138 million, final cash costs are projected to be £150 million. The cost growth is a result of a contractual claim settled and agreed between the prime contractor and the Ministry of Defence. For delivery, at the main gate decision point this was initially February 2012. At the most recent approval, delivery is now projected for September 2012. The primary contractor is Lockheed Martin UK, and there is no consortium.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Chinook Project Julius. [81171]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The original approval for the Chinook Julius project Design and Manufacture (D and M) phase, for eight aircraft was £132 million. This initial requirement was subsequently expanded by £158 million to enable the Julius Cockpit to be integrated into the remainder of the current total Chinook fleet of 46 aircraft, giving a total budget of £290 million. The current expected outturn cost remains, at £290 million as of 31 October 2011. The first of these helicopters will be delivered to the RAF in December 2011.

The prime contractor for the Chinook Julius D and M is The Boeing Company. They have sub-contracted the design of the cockpit system to Thales (UK) Ltd.

Lost Property

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has lost any *(a)* computers, *(b)* mobile phones, *(c)* BlackBerrys and *(d)* other IT equipment since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77412]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes any loss and theft of Communications and Information Systems (CIS) and associated media storage devices very seriously. We have robust procedures in place to mitigate against such occurrences and to manage such losses when they do occur. This is reflected in the level of detail we record, and our policy of including in our figures incidents when equipment may have been securely disposed of without the correct records being kept, where missing items are subsequently located and where incidents involve the loss of contractors' equipment which was being used to process Defence information.

The size and complexity of the MOD, more than 250,000 individuals operating all round the world, from permanent bases and in theatre and with frequent movement of kit between locations in support of operations, means it is almost inevitable that equipment will go missing. Our challenge remains to reduce the number of such incidents and minimise the risk of any incident resulting in the loss of information by ensuring that devices are encrypted or where this is not possible that additional security measures are in place. Processes, instructions and technological aids are being continually reviewed, revised and implemented to mitigate human errors and further raise the awareness of every individual in the Department of their vital role protecting MOD information and assets.

The following table details how many computers, mobile phones, BlackBerrys and other IT equipment have been reported lost or stolen since May 2010.

CIS asset	*Number*
Desktop computers	99
Laptop computers	[1]188
Mobile phones	18
BlackBerrys	10

CIS asset	Number
Disks (CD/DVD)	194
Removable hard disk drives	72
Printers	6
Tapes (Backup)	[2]150
USB memory sticks	73
Other IT[3]	135

[1] Includes 21 laptops stolen in one incident during transit in Germany and 20 laptops reported lost in another incident which have subsequently been recovered.
[2] Includes 80 legacy backup tapes unaccounted for in one incident.
[3] The majority of the "Other" category refers to USB tokens but it also includes radios, 3G cards, cameras, keyboards and monitors.

For comparison, using laptops as an example, 326 were lost in 2008 and 129 in 2009.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department received a pay rise other than by promotion in the last two years; and what the average increase was in each such year. [78129]

Mr Robathan: In financial year (FY) 2010-11, 51,603 employees who are covered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s main pay arrangements received a pay rise, which was the last year of a three-year pay deal agreed in 2008 under the previous Administration. The average increase was £1,259 (full-time equivalent). From FY 2011-12 these employees are subject to a two-year pay freeze except for those earning less than £21,000 per annum who are entitled to receive a pay increase of at least £250. For FY 2011-12, 24,518 employees earning less than £21,000 per annum received an increase of an average value of £357, which included an element for shortening the length of the pay scales.

In addition to its main pay arrangements, the MOD has a number of separate pay arrangements covering specialist grades (such as fire service personnel, police, teachers, doctors and nurses) where pay is analogued to comparators in other Government Departments. In 2010-11, 4,988 employees were entitled to pay rises under these arrangements which included revalorisation and incremental progression under existing pay deals. The average increase was £1,160 (full-time equivalent). For FY 2011-12, 1,288 employees in this group received an average increase of £906. These employees are now subject to a two-year pay freeze in line with the arrangements for their comparators in other Government Departments.

MOD trading funds, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally employed civilians working overseas have their own delegated arrangements for pay and grading and are excluded.

Departmental Redundancy

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military redundancies his Department had forecasted would be made in the 12 months following the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and how many such redundancies were actually made. [81928]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* The Strategic Defence and Security Review set a savings target equivalent to a reduction in the civilian workforce of 25,000, and a reduction of 17,000 posts in the regular armed forces by 31 March 2015. The Department's aim is that, so far as possible, those savings will be made without recourse to compulsory redundancy.

For the civilian workforce, allowing for the effects of normal staff turnover and the current civil service recruitment restrictions, it was estimated that the Department would need to agree some 15,500 paid releases between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014. Accordingly, a voluntary early release scheme was launched in February. By the end of October 2011, 2,589 individuals had left under this scheme. It is important to note that these are not redundancies.

In respect of reductions within the armed forces, no specific forecast was made for the number of redundancies in Tranche 1, within the overall envelope of 3,600 posts within the different redundancy fields. Some 2,859 were selected for redundancy of whom 1,770 were applicants. Notifications were issued by the Army and Royal Air Force on 1 September 2011, with the Royal Navy following on 30 September 2011. Applicants were given six months' notice to leave and others 12 months. Further tranches are planned, with the second due to be under way in early 2012.

Departmental Reorganisation

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish his Department's organisational redesign strategy. [81956]

Mr Philip Hammond: We have agreed the recommendations in Lord Levene's Defence Reform report and are working on a detailed departmental blueprint setting out how we will implement them. This will be coming forward for ministerial consideration shortly. We will publish our conclusions once they have been agreed. We have already established the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in April 2011, Defence Business Services in July 2011, and we will set up the new Joint Forces Command in April 2012.

Germany: Military Bases

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects his Department to save from the re-basing in the UK of troops based in Germany in each financial year until 2030. [81487]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* We expect to make substantial savings as a result of returning forces currently based in Germany to the UK. The additional costs to the Ministry of Defence of stationing forces in Germany are at least £250 million a year in allowances and education and medical support. However, a detailed implementation plan for the return of British forces is in the process of being developed, so we do not yet have a profile for the delivery of savings as these additional costs are reduced.

Libya: Security

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Libya. [81466]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* We keep the security situation in Libya under close review. While we do not underestimate the significant challenges facing the Libyan authorities, our current assessment is that Libya remains largely stable.

Seedcorn Initiative

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many personnel are taking part in the Seedcorn initiative; what the location is of each; and with what equipment they are training; [81671]

(2) what capabilities are being maintained through the Seedcorn initiative; [81672]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Seedcorn initiative in each of the next five years. [81673]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Seedcorn initiative will sustain the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s capability to operate high level fixed-wing Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) and maintain the associated skills of its personnel. Qualified RAF aircrew will be on exchange with a variety of Allied MPA forces, where they will maintain their anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, long-range search and rescue, and Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) skills.

The estimated cost of the initiative on average is £2.4 million per year for the next five years; this includes salary and allowances.

Retaining skills and MPA knowledge is vital if the United Kingdom is to be in a position to regenerate our own MPA capability at some point in the future.

The number and location of personnel and equipment to be used is as follows:

Location		*Aircraft*	*Number of personnel*
Canada	Royal Canadian Air Force Greenwood	CP-140 Aurora	7
New Zealand	Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Whenuapai	P-3K Orion/P-3K2 Orion	5
	Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Ohakea	Beech King Air B200	1
Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Edinburgh	AP-3C Orion	4
United States	Naval Air Station Norfolk	Non-flying appointment related to maritime operational staff duties.	1
	Naval Air Station Patuxent River	P3C Orion	2

Additionally, discussions are ongoing with the US Navy on an exchange initiative for fully qualified RAF aircrew to support the US P-8A Poseidon programme.

Syria: Security

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on the security situation in Syria. [81463]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* I have discussed a range of security issues with a number of my NATO counterparts. In NATO, the North Atlantic Council has met informally to consider the situation in Syria in line with the emphasis the Alliance's Strategic Concept places on political consultations. However, the United Nations Security Council is the main forum for discussions on Syria.

Terrorism: Chemical and Biological Warfare

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between the Government and NATO regarding Ministry of Defence sites as locations to receive victims in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack. [69757]

Mr Robathan: I will write to the hon. Member.

Trident

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will publish all the evidence submitted to the Trident Alternatives Review on its completion; [81681]

(2) how the Government intends to take account of the Trident Alternatives Review once it is published. [81690]

Peter Luff: The review will report jointly to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Defence on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 34W.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to update hon. and right hon. Members on the progress and cost of the Trident replacement programme during the remainder of the Parliament prior to Main Gate. [81682]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 34W.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Watchkeeper Surveillance System project. [81381]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The initial approved cost for the Watchkeeper project was £908 million and the forecast procurement costs are £904 million. These are reductions in the previously reported costs due to changes in the Ministry of Defence

accounting procedures. The approved initial three year support cost for Watchkeeper is £55 million, with a current forecast cost of £53 million.

Watchkeeper platforms will be delivered in the first quarter of 2012. Thales (UK) is the prime contractor on the Watchkeeper programme. Major subcontractors include Elbit Systems and UAS Tactical Systems Ltd; however Thales are not developing Watchkeeper as part of a consortium.

USA: Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the US Navy on the training of Royal Air Force personnel on the P-8 Poseidon aircraft. [81670]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Discussions are progressing with the US Navy on an exchange initiative for fully qualified RAF aircrew to support the US P-8 Poseidon programme.

World War Two: Military Decorations

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he is giving to the creation of an official campaign medal for the veterans of the Second World War's Arctic Campaign. [82464]

Mr Gerald Howarth: Contemporary medal papers make it clear that the convoys to north Russia were considered at the time that the qualifying criteria for the Second World War Campaign Stars and Medals were under discussion.

From the outset, the qualifying criteria for the proposed Atlantic Star were designed to include recognition of service on the Russian convoys. The regulations for the Atlantic Star specifically allude to the Arctic convoys in the qualifying criteria.

However, I gave assurances in Opposition regarding the award of a specific Arctic Convoy Medal and the Government recently agreed that there should be a fresh review of the rules governing the award of military medals. This will be conducted by an independent reviewer with full consultation with interested parties. It will make use of all of the work already undertaken as a part of the Ministry of Defence's earlier review but will have a broader scope and an independent lead, both of which are expected to be announced shortly.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 77412 tabled on 25 October 2011 for answer on 27 October 2011. [82597]

Mr Robathan: I replied to the hon. Member today.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food Security

14. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to improve food security in the UK. [82284]

Mrs Spelman: The Foresight report on the Future of Food and Farming identified the global challenges we face feeding an estimated population of 9 billion in 2050. The UK Government are working at home and abroad to increase resilience, promote open global markets, boost trade and ensure there will be more food, at less cost to the environment.

Farm Administration

15. **Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in reducing the administrative burden of inspection and regulation on farmers. [82285]

Mr Paice: In my written statement of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, I announced the publication of the interim response to the independent Farm Regulation Task Force. We will publish a final response early in 2012.

Animal Welfare

16. **Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will introduce a unilateral ban on the import of eggs produced in contravention of the welfare of laying hens directive. [82286]

Mr Paice: The Government have thoroughly investigated the possibility of taking unilateral action and bringing in a UK ban on all imports of egg and egg products which have been produced in conventional cages in other member states. There are very significant legal and financial challenges in instigating a unilateral ban, but at this stage we are not ruling it out altogether. We will be announcing our enforcement strategy shortly.

17. **Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* her EU counterparts and *(b)* ministerial colleagues on the implementation of the welfare of laying hens directive. [82287]

Mr Paice: Discussions at an EU level are ongoing and the UK is fully engaged with the Commission, other member states and the devolved Administrations in finding a practical enforcement solution. We need to protect those producers across the EU, who will have complied with the ban, from the risk of competitive distortion in favour of those who will have maintained illegal production after 1 January 2012.

Housebuilding

18. **Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the building of houses in areas prone to flooding. [82288]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and his ministerial team. Our officials also meet regularly to discuss a wide range of issues.

Natural Environment White Paper

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on the implementation of the plans set out in the Natural Environment White Paper. [82274]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Environment White Paper includes 92 commitments for action. Five months after publication, seven commitments are complete and significant progress has been made in: running the Nature Improvement Area competition; round one of the Local Nature Partnership capacity building fund; and in levels of interest in becoming pilot areas to test biodiversity off-setting.

Rural Broadband

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of poor broadband access on rural businesses. [82283]

Richard Benyon: There is evidence that businesses using the internet outperform those that do not, growing four to eight times faster. We recognise that lack of broadband availability hampers the potential of rural businesses and that is why the Government are investing £530 million to bring superfast broadband to 90% of the population in all local areas, with at least a functional level of access—two megabits per second—to the rest of the population by 2015.

Agricultural Land Tribunals

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the functions are of the Agricultural Land Tribunals. [77637]

Mr Paice: The Agricultural Land Tribunals (ALTs) play an important role in settling disputes and other issues between agricultural tenants and landlords arising from tenancy agreements held under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986. For example, ALTs consider applications:

by close relatives of a deceased or retiring tenant to succeed to an agricultural tenancy;

by landlords for consent to a notice to quit served on the tenant;

by landlords for a certificate of bad husbandry on the ground that the tenant is not farming in accordance with the rules of good husbandry;

by tenants for approval to carry out long-term improvements on the holding; and

for a direction to provide fixed equipment.

ALTs also have a role under the Land Drainage Act 1991 in considering certain drainage disputes between neighbours.

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expected *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing levels will be for Agricultural Land Tribunals in each year to 2014-15. [77638]

Mr Paice: The administrative support for the Agricultural Land Tribunals transferred from DEFRA to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service as from 31 October 2011. A budget transfer has been agreed between DEFRA and the Ministry of Justice of £115,000 per annum for each year of the spending review period until 2014-15. This includes an element for costs for the equivalent of 2.6 full-time staff.

Agriculture

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to promote the sustainable intensification model of food production. [80773]

Mr Paice: In the recently published Natural Environment White Paper, the Government made a commitment to consider how we could increase food production while also enhancing the natural environment. This is being taken forward through the "Green Food Project", which is a joint initiative between Government, the farming and food industry and environmental and consumer organisations.

We want to ensure that the UK is making a contribution to the need for global food security and environmental improvement, and is demonstrating leadership in doing so.

Working in partnership with other funders, industry and academics, DEFRA is delivering a co-ordinated framework for research and innovation through initiatives such as the Global Food Security Programme. We are also supporting a new Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform for collaborative Research and Development funding with industry. This will stimulate the development of new technologies which will increase productivity while decreasing the environmental impact of the food and farming industries.

DEFRA is working with businesses through the Courtauld Commitment and consumers through the Love Food Hate Waste initiative to tackle food waste, a commitment which was highlighted in the Government's recent Waste Policy Review 2011. Making the food chain more efficient through waste reduction measures will reduce pressure on resources, such as water and energy, required for food production, and will lower greenhouse gas emissions, therefore making a substantial contribution to producing more food with fewer resources.

Agriculture: Industrial Health and Safety

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Health and Safety Executive on the health and safety of agricultural workers. [80893]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has had no recent discussions with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on the health and safety of agricultural workers. Health and safety in the agriculture industry is a matter for HSE.

The report of the Independent Farm Regulation Task Force published in May 2011 endorsed HSE's risk-based approach to inspection and its proactive approach to improving compliance. The steps HSE are taking to promote health and safety within the industry are detailed in the response from the Minister for Employment, Department for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 125W.

Common Agricultural Policy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the potential impact on farmers of proposed reforms to the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement. [76984]

Mr Paice: The European Commission published its draft regulatory proposals concerning the 2014-20 common agricultural policy on the 12 October, including an extensive impact assessment. The proposals were discussed for the first time in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 20 October 2011, which the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), and I attended.

The EU has an important opportunity to agree the genuine reforms needed to meet the long-term demands of the 21st Century. We are disappointed at the lack of ambition the Commission has shown in their CAP proposals. We do not believe the proposals will benefit the environment or have the long-term competitiveness of the industry in mind. They root agriculture in the past and fall short of addressing future challenges and opportunities ahead. The proposals fail to encourage the innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable actions that are essential—and in some ways work against these aims.

DEFRA is currently considering the Council's documents in detail and will, as usual, meet with key stakeholder groups to assess the potential impact these may have on UK farm businesses. We will continue to discuss the proposals with devolved Ministers, and look forward to further discussions at European level. We will work constructively with member states, the Commission and—for the first time on CAP Reform—with the European Parliament to deliver the ambitious reform we believe is necessary.

Negotiations on the proposals are under way but this is the start of a long and complex process which will take place alongside negotiations on the next Multi Annual Financial Framework 2014-20.

Flood Prevention

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her top three priorities for flood prevention are for 2012; and if she will make a statement. [82640]

Richard Benyon: Our priorities for managing flood risk remain those we set out in the programme for government. These are taking forward the findings of the Pitt review to improve our flood defences, avoiding unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk and maintaining an effective and robust capability to respond to flooding emergencies.

Food Supply

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on the implementation of the recommendations of "Food 2030". [78100]

Mr Paice: "Food 2030", published by the previous Government in January 2010, set out goals for food production and the supply chain, and the changes needed to achieve them. Many of the document's themes remain relevant and are still embedded into DEFRA's policy-making.

Over the last year however DEFRA has been working with a new business plan that places a clear focus on the need to support a competitive, productive agriculture and food industry, alongside new commitments to environmental protection and enhancement of the environment. DEFRA has also welcomed the publication of the Foresight report on the Future of Food and Farming, which explores the pressures on the global food system between now and 2050. These pressures will undoubtedly influence our policy-making. To this aim, we are working with the food chain and other partners and across Government to ensure that we have a sustainable food system capable of dealing with a growing population and changing climate while protecting and enhancing the environment.

One particular action we are taking forward in this area is the new "Green Food Project". The project originated from a commitment we made in the Natural Environment White Paper in June 2011 to:

"bring together government, industry and environmental partners to reconcile how we will achieve our goals of improving the environment and increasing food production" (NEWP page 24, paragraph 2.46).

Our intention is that the project will generate conclusions in June 2012 which we can draw on to help us tackle the findings of the Foresight report, and create a more strategic framework for agri-food policy going forward.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department has allocated to the Skills Action Plan for the food supply chain in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [81424]

Mr Paice: The Food Supply Chain Skills Action Plan was a collaborative effort involving Government, industry, the Institute of Grocery Distribution and a number of sector skills councils. While DEFRA facilitated it, and has one specific commitment to deliver, it does not fund the actions that the other participants have committed to.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she will publish her Department's response to the consultation on greenhouse gas emissions. [80273]

Mr Paice: A public consultation looking at the options available for ensuring corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions are more widespread and consistent was held between 11 May and 5 July 2011.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently considering the Government's response to the consultation and will make an announcement in the coming months.

Sheep Meat: Prices

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of recent trends in the price of lamb on the lamb industry. [75034]

Mr Paice: From 2007 to 2010 there has been a large increase in the ex-farm price of finished sheep, which rose from 237p/kg to 389p/kg.[1]

The value from sheep and lamb production in the UK rose significantly from £641 million in 2007 to £958 million in 2009. The provisional figures for 2010 continue to show growth with an estimated value of £970 million.

In this same period (2007-10) the production of sheep and lamb meat decreased by over 10%. There was a similar decline in the number of sheep (8%) over this period. However, the latest provisional UK results for 2011 show a 1% increase in the number of sheep and lambs to 31.4 million, the first increase since 2004.

Movements in ex-farm prices and numbers of sheep, and the production costs, have a bearing on farm incomes in the sheep sector. DEFRA have published farm incomes for a range of farm types in England, including grazing livestock farms (lowland and LFA), for the year ending February 2011.

[1] GB finished sheep (pence per kg estimated dressed carcass weight) average price in each year.

References

Agriculture in the UK

Table 5.15

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-foodfarm-crosscutting-auk-auk2010-110525.pdf

June survey of Agriculture and Horticulture for the UK

Table 9—Sheep and Lambs

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-june-statsnotice-uk-111006.pdf

June survey time series

UK Livestock numbers 1866 to present

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/junesurvey/junesurveyresults/

Farm Business Survey results

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/publications/fbsincomes/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Embassies: Opening Hours

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to advertise his policy on out-of-hours consular assistance more widely on his Department's website. [81447]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides 24-hour support to British nationals in difficulty abroad through its consular staff abroad and in London. This support is described in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide", which is available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

The Travel and Living Abroad pages on the FCO website provide clear details of how to contact our staff 24 hours a day, specifically at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/

and:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/contact

The FCO's 24 hour telephone number is also carried on all consular leaflets and publications. Facebook users can link directly to the "find an Embassy" facility on the FCO website. British nationals contacting a British embassy, high commission or consulate out of office hours will be redirected to the FCO's global response centre and charged a local rate for their call.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on out-of-hours consular assistance by UK consulates; and whether it has changed in the last 18 months. [81448]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides 24-hour support to British nationals in difficulty abroad through its consular staff abroad and in London. This support is described in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide", which is available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

The Travel and Living Abroad pages on the FCO website provide details of how to contact our staff 24 hours a day, specifically at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/

and:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/contact

The FCO's 24 hour telephone number is also carried on all consular leaflets and publications. Facebook users can link directly to the "find an Embassy" facility on the FCO website.

The FCO's global response centre (GRC) was launched on 1 April 2009. This changed the way we deliver consular assistance outside of normal office hours. British nationals contacting a British embassy, high commission or consulate out of office hours are redirected to the GRC and charged a local rate for their call. The GRC will handle the majority of inquiries directly. Those that require the urgent attention of a consular officer abroad will be passed to the relevant British embassy, high commission or consulate, so that a consular officer can attend. Such cases might include the death of a British national in custody; rape or sexual assault; kidnaps; and cases involving vulnerable groups such as children or elderly people; and issuing emergency travel documents (ETDs) in cases of genuine emergency such as the death or serious illness of a relative requiring urgent travel.

Kurds: Syria

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the position of the Kurds in Syria. [R] [82350]

Alistair Burt: Syrian Kurds continue to suffer discrimination by the Assad regime. Although the Syrian authorities recently announced a review of the 1962 census, which had revoked the nationality of thousands of Syrian Kurds, around 300,000 of the 1.7 million Kurds living in Syria are still without citizenship. We hear regular reports of arbitrary arrests, violations of Kurdish property rights, and deaths of Kurds in military service. The teaching of Kurdish is prohibited and Kurdish festivals are disrupted by the security services.

During his meeting with members of Syria's opposition on 21 November, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs urged opposition representatives to unite around a common political platform that will enable the people of Syria to see a pathway to a clear alternative to dictatorship and repression. He particularly stressed the importance of respecting the rights of minorities, so that all Syria's citizens are protected and have a stake in the future of the country.

Libya: Asylum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of Libyan refugees on or near Libyan borders. [81492]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

The latest UN estimate, dating from mid October, registered approximately 9,500 Libyan nationals' as refugees in Tunisia, mostly in the southern governorate of Tataouine. This number is down from the 13,000 refugees that had been registered by the UN in early September. We remain in close contact with the UN refugees agency (UNHCR) to monitor the situation at the Libyan borders.

Lord's Resistance Army

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions officials of his Department have had with their counterparts in the US administration on its announcement on sending armed military advisers to assist in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army; and if he will make a statement. [82703]

Mr Bellingham: Officials in my Department have had a number of discussions on this matter with their US counterparts, about the terms and the objectives of this deployment.

The UK welcomes and shares the commitment of the US to help bring the Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) campaign of atrocities to a sustainable end, including through our support to the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation, Repatriation and Reconciliation programmes, and our significant humanitarian support to LRA affected areas. As an active member of the International Working Group (IWG) on the LRA, and through our work with partners at the UN Security Council, we are working to improve co-ordination of the international response, and ensure that civilians are afforded maximum protection.

We also call upon the remaining LRA fighters to surrender to local military forces, and for the UN to continue its work to return and reintegrate these fighters back into their home communities.

Palestine: Peace Negotiations

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Palestinian National Authority on returning to peace negotiations as soon as possible. [82619]

Alistair Burt: We continue to reiterate our calls for negotiations towards a two state solution based on the timetable set out in the Quartet Statement of 23 September. We regularly emphasise the importance of efforts towards a negotiated solution with the Palestinian National Authority.

The UK continues to be one of the principal supporters of Palestinian state building efforts, assisting them to tackle poverty, build institutions and boost their economy.

We will continue to engage with the Palestinian leadership and to reinforce the importance of working towards a two-state solution.

Strategic Shrinkage

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department uses to *(a)* define and *(b)* quantify strategic shrinkage. [81722]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office regards strategic shrinkage as a reduction in Britain's diplomatic network and our ability to build productive relationships which further our national interests.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Crisis Loans

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many budgeting loan acceptances have been sent out by his Department in the six months to 31 August 2011; and how many such acceptances have been received by his Department *(a)* within the qualifying time and *(b)* too late. [80150]

Steve Webb: Information relating to the number of budgeting loans offered to claimants by the Department and the number of such offers that are accepted is not gathered. Information is available as to the number of budgeting loan applications, initial decisions, awards and refusals.

Please see the following table for the six month period from March 2011 to August 2011.

Number of applications and initial awards March 2011 to August 2011

	Number
Applications	757,600
Initial Awards	525,900
Initial Decisions	757,900
Initial Refusals	211,300

Notes:
1. Figures are from March 2010-11 to August 2011-12
2. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one initial award.)
3. Figures for initial decisions are based on the applications processed.
4. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.
5. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

The difference between applications received, initial decisions, initial awards, and initial refusals is due to: applications being withdrawn; applicants rejecting or not responding to loan offers; and applications not decided at the time the count was made.

Where a budgeting loan offer is accepted but returned late, it may still be paid where there is good reason for the delay. If there is no good reason for the delay the applicant is invited to resubmit their application. The Department does not hold information about the number of responses to loan offers that are made late.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 554W, on crisis loans, whether he has made an assessment of the factors underlying the increase in defaults in March 2011. [82041]

Steve Webb: There has been no change to the policy for crisis loan defaults during 2010-11. There was a purge in March in the system maintenance on deceased records and this accounts for the associated increase in default loans during that month.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what will replace crisis loan alignment payments for non-claimants of universal credit from April 2013; and which official body or bodies will be responsible for making such awards. [82745]

Steve Webb: The current Welfare Reform Bill contains provisions which will enable crisis loans for alignment to be replaced by payment on account short-term advances from April 2013 for both universal credit and all current benefits. These advances will be made at the discretion of the Secretary of State and administered by Jobcentre Plus and Pensions, Disability and Carers Service.

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the report of the Low Review, page 10, what consideration he has given to the finding that the mobility component of disability living allowance is key to meeting the personal mobility needs of care home providers. [82148]

Maria Miller: When we announced that we would not remove the mobility component of disability living allowance from people in residential care from October 2012, we said we would review the position in personal independence payment. This is precisely what we have done. We are now considering the findings of the recently published review into provision for the mobility needs of care home residents by the noble Lord, Lord Low, before we announce our final decision.

Disability: Transport

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of financial assistance for disabled people who cannot use public transport to get to work; and what his policy is on *(a)* means-testing and *(b)* regionally evaluating such assistance. [82642]

Maria Miller: The Access to Work programme may be able to provide financial assistance for disabled people unable to use public transport to get to work. Individual disabled people make an application for assistance and then will discuss with an Access to Work adviser the type and level of support needed. The support that is offered differs for each individual and is tailored to meet the disabled person's specific needs.

Access to Work is a discretionary programme and not a formal benefit and is not means tested.

Information on the number of disabled people using Access to Work and the type of support they receive is available broken down to regional level.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the affordable rent model for social housing rents on the number of households who would be subject to the household benefit cap in each of the next five years. [82666]

Steve Webb: The new affordable rent product will allow social landlords to charge rents at up to 80% of local market rents. When setting rents, it is expected that providers will, where possible, utilise the flexibility to charge rents at 80% of local market rents in order to maximise delivery of new homes, but landlords should take into account a number of factors, including the proposed reforms of the welfare system.

It is not possible to assess robustly the impact of the affordable rent model on the number of households who might be subject to the benefit cap because it is dependent on the behavioural decisions of housing providers, and the individual circumstances of future tenants.

My officials will work very closely with those responsible for the Government's affordable rent policy at the Department for Communities and Local Government in introducing the benefit cap.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of householders who would become subject to the household benefit cap if they were to become unemployed after entering an affordable rent tenancy. [82667]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available as the Department can make no estimate of the number of people who might become unemployed after entering an affordable rent tenancy.

Jobcentre Plus: Argyll and Bute

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff were in post in each Job Centre office in Argyll and Bute constituency *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* at the end of each of the last five years. [82494]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives the number of full-time equivalents in each Jobcentre in the Argyll and Bute constituency as at August 2011, being the latest published data available, and as at March in each of the last five years, with March being the end of the operational and financial year for which staffing is recorded.

Number of full-time equivalents

Jobcentre	*March 2007*	*March 2008*	*March 2009*	*March 2010*	*March 2011*	*August 2011*
Campbeltown	11	10	7	9	9	8
Dunoon	7	10	11	14	12	11
Helensburgh	9	8	8	13	12	11
Oban	18	16	14	14	13	14
Rothesay	7	6	4	8	7	6
Total	52	50	44	57	52	49

Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of uprating pension credit using a consumer prices index level of *(a)* 2.5, *(b)* 3, *(c)* 3.1, *(d)* 3.5, *(e)* 4, *(f)* 4.3, *(g)* 4.5, *(h)* 4.6, *(i)* 4.9, *(j)* 5.1 and *(k)* 5.2 per cent. in 2012-13. [82752]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

Percentage increase	*Cost (£ million)*
(a) 2.5	470
(b) 3.0	560
(c) 3.1	580
(d) 3.5	650
(e) 4.0	750
(f) 4.3	800
(g) 4.5	840
(h) 4.6	860
(i) 4.9	920
(j) 5.1	950
(k) 5.2	970

Notes:
1. Costing based on DWP budget 2011 expenditure forecasts.
2. Costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
3. Costs are compared to a baseline of no uprating and are indicative only. Proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.
4. The costing assumes that housing benefit and council tax benefit rates are aligned with those for pension credit.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who would be disadvantaged if the roll-out of auto-enrolment into pensions at work were to be deferred by two years. [82801]

Steve Webb: The Department estimates that between 9 million and 10 million people are eligible for automatic enrolment and are not currently saving in a qualifying workplace pension scheme. Delaying automatic enrolment for two years would mean these individuals would forego the opportunity to save in a workplace pension scheme for those two years.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who would be eligible for auto-enrolment into pensions at work if companies with 10 or fewer employees were exempted. [82802]

Steve Webb: The Department estimates that between 9 million and 10 million people are eligible for automatic enrolment and are not currently saving in a qualifying workplace pension scheme. If companies with 10 or fewer employees were exempted, this would reduce the number of people eligible by between 2 million and 3 million, resulting in an estimate of around 7 million people eligible for automatic enrolment.

Child Poverty

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 594W, on children: poverty, what progress he has made in the establishment of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission; whether its remit has changed from that set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [79973]

Maria Miller: As we announced in the Child Poverty and Social Mobility Strategies published on 5 April 2011, we are using the Welfare Reform Bill to make the necessary changes to the Child Poverty Act 2010 to create a Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. The Bill is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Lords. The Commission will be established as soon as possible following Royal Assent.

We believe that the Commission must be an effective public body, which improves accountability and thus helps to drive progress towards the 2020 goal to eradicate child poverty. It should also assist Government in improving social mobility in the UK. We want to achieve these aims by expanding the Commission's remit to include social mobility and by giving the Commission the power to publish annual progress reports on child poverty and social mobility.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of school-age children in England living in poverty; [81611]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of school pupils in England aged between four and 16 living in poverty. [81612]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

Statistics covering 2009-10 are the most recent available.

The following tables show the number and proportion of all children aged 4 to 16 who were in households with equivalised disposable income below 60% of contemporary median income Before Housing Costs (BHC). School-age children have been included in the age range 4 to 16 using the definition for a child from the HBAI series.

Table 1: Numbers and proportions of children aged 4 to 16 living in relative poverty (BHC)

	Number (million)	*Proportion (%)*
Children aged 4-16	1.7	19

Table 2: Numbers and proportions of school pupils aged 4 to 16 living in relative poverty (BHC)

	Number (million)	*Proportion (%)*
Children aged 4-16	1.5	19

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
2. Data are sourced from the Family Resources Survey and covers Great Britain up to 1997-98 and the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
3. Disposable household income is adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. Numbers of people in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
6. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost (BHC) basis. For BHC figures, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income.
7. The household level poverty threshold is defined as the 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income.
8. A dependent child is defined in HBAI as an individual aged under 16. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16 to 19 years old and they are:
not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; and
living with parents; and
in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged government training.
9. School-age children have been included in the age range 4 to 16 using the definition of a child from HBAI given in point 8.
10. Children have been defined as school pupils if they are attending a primary school (including reception class); special school; middle-deemed primary; middle-deemed secondary; secondary/grammar school; or any private school (preparatory or secondary). These may be state run or assisted. This classification is independent of the type of qualification being taken forward. The main difference between the populations are four-year-olds not having started primary school yet and 16-year-olds who are in non-advanced further education not being counted as school pupils. Children being home schooled have also not been counted as school pupils.
11. The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three further income-based UK-wide targets to be met by 2020. The targets are based on the proportion of children living in households with combined low income and material deprivation, absolute low income and persistent poverty.

Source:
Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2009/10, DWP.

Social Security Benefits

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* women, *(b)* men and *(c)* pensioners are entitled to (i) attendance allowance, (ii) carer's allowance, (iii) council tax benefit, (iv) dependency increases, (v) disability living allowance, (vi) employment and support allowance, (vii) housing benefit, (viii) incapacity benefit, (ix) income support, (x) industrial injuries disablement benefit, (xi) jobseeker's allowance, (xii) maternity allowance, (xiii) pension credit, (xiv) the Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases scheme and the Workmen's Compensation (Supplementation), (xv) state pension, (xvi) severe disablement allowance, (xvii) statutory adoption pay, (xviii) statutory maternity pay, (xix) statutory paternity pay, (xx) statutory sick pay, (xxi) widow's benefit and (xxii) bereavement benefit; [82753]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of uprating *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* carer's allowance, *(c)* council tax benefit, *(d)* dependency increases, *(e)* disability living allowance, *(f)* employment and support allowance, *(g)* housing benefit, *(h)* incapacity benefit, *(i)* income support, *(j)* industrial injuries disablement benefit, *(k)* jobseeker's allowance, *(l)* maternity allowance, *(m)* pension credit, *(n)* the Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases scheme and the Workmen's Compensation (Supplementation), *(o)* state pension, *(p)* severe disablement allowance, *(q)* statutory adoption pay, *(r)* statutory maternity pay, *(s)* statutory paternity pay, *(t)* statutory sick pay, *(u)* widow's benefit and *(v)* bereavement benefit for 2012-13 by (i) 2.5, (ii) 4.3 and (iii) 5.3 per cent. [82754]

Steve Webb: The information is tabled as follows:

	Benefit entitlement[1]				
Benefit	*Total claimants*	*Males*	*Females*	*Pensioners*[2]	*Number of claimants with a partner*
AA	1,760,620	571,910	1,188,700	1,760,620	n/a
CA	1,020,120	341,240	678,880	418,990	n/a
DLA	3,231,330	1,621,050	1,610,280	1,061,010	n/a
ESA	662,230	362,640	299,600	—	93,410
IB/SDA	1,946,200	1,095,910	850,280	37,470	22,150
IS	1,703,220	592,560	1,110,660	—	224,250
JSA	1,404,140	946,100	458,040	—	153,570
PC	2,674,670	1,051,670	1,622,990	—	599,080
SP	12,616,240	4,871,260	7,744,980	12,616,240	n/a
WB	44,000	n/a	44,000	—	n/a
BB	64,770	18,590	46,180	—	n/a
MA	54,800	n/a	54,800	—	n/a
IIDB	270,380	217,770	52,620	141,090	n/a
Pre-1948 schemes:					
WC	80	70	10	80	n/a
PBM	80 Total	60	20	80	n/a

	Total claimants[3]	*Single males*	*Single females*	*Number of couples*	*Pensioners*[2]
HB	4,909,510	1,371,950	2,503,550	1,023,240	1,279,120
CTB	5,860,150	1,399,060	2,986,590	1,461,510	2,210,160

n/a = not available/not applicable
'—' = nil or negligible
[1] Caseload figures used for Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and
Carer's Allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit). Caseloads for Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance include Credits Only cases.
[2] IIDB claimants pensioners are defined as women over 60 and men over 65. HB/CTB pensioners are defined as those cases where either the claimant is aged 65 and over (single people) or the elder of the claimant or partner is aged 65 or over (couples). For all other benefits pensioners are defined as those over state pension age. The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.
[3] HB/CTB: Gender is not recorded for a large number of cases. Claimants with unknown gender are excluded from the analysis. For this reason the number of single and couples in the above table do not sum to the total number of claimants.
Key:
AA = Attendance Allowance
CA = Carer's Allowance
DLA = Disability Living Allowance
ESA = Employment and Support Allowance
IB/SDA = Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance
IS = Income Support
JSA = Jobseeker's Allowance
PC = Pension Credit
SP = State Pension
WB = Widow's Benefit
BB = Bereavement Benefit
MA = Maternity Allowance (MA) claimants, Great Britain: May 2011.
IIDB = Industrial Injuries Death Benefit
WC = Workmen's Compensation
PBM = Pneumoconiosis Byssinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases: March 2011
HB/CTB = Housing Benefit /Council Tax Benefit: August 2011
Notes:
1. WPLS 100% and SHBE 100% data is rounded to the nearest 10 and 5% sample
data to the nearest 100.
2. The partner information is based on the payment of additional benefit which is paid for a partner.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Caseload data are available on the Department's tabulation tool at: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
5. Pension Credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee transferred to Pension Credit in October 2003. These Pension Credit statistics are produced on a different basis to the Early Estimates. The latter are more timely but operational processing times mean that a number of claim commencements and terminations are not reflected in them.
6. IIDB caseloads exclude Reduced Earnings Allowance cases.
Sources:
IIDB, WC ,PBM: DWP Information Governance and Security Directorate 100% scan
Maternity Allowance: DWP Information Governance and Security Directorate 5% sample data.
Housing Benefit: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)
All other benefits: DWP Information Governance and Security Directorate 100%
Works and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Cost of uprating

£ million

	Percentage uprating		
	(i) 2.5	*(ii) 4.3*	*(iii) 5.3*
Attendance Allowance	140	240	290
Carer's Allowance	40	80	90
Council Tax Benefit	10	10	10

Cost of uprating

£ million

	Percentage uprating		
	(i) 2.5	*(ii) 4.3*	*(iii) 5.3*
Dependency increases	*	*	*
Disability Living Allowance	320	540	670
Employment and Support Allowance	150	260	320
Housing Benefit	20	40	50
Incapacity Benefit	40	60	80
Income Support	120	210	260
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	20	40	50
Jobseeker's Allowance	110	190	230
Maternity Allowance	10	10	20
Pension Credit	360	630	770
Pneumoconiosis Byssinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases scheme and the Workmen's Compensation (Supplementation)	*	*	*
State Pension	2,060	3,620	4,490
Severe Disablement Allowance	20	40	50
Statutory Maternity Pay	30	70	90
Statutory Sick Pay	*	*	*
Bereavement benefits	10	20	30

Notes:
1. Figures are in cash terms, rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. Figures less than £10 million are denoted by '*'.
3. Effects in income-related benefits (CTB, ESA, HB, IS, JSA and PC) include offsetting effects from income from other benefits being brought to account.
4. Bereavements benefits includes Widow's Benefit.
5. Cost are based on Budget 2011 forecasts.
6. Costs are compared to a baseline of no uprating and are indicative only. Proposed benefit rates will be announced to Parliament by ministerial statement later in the autumn.

Welfare Reform Bill

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the Scottish Parliament's request for oral evidence on the Welfare Reform Bill. [82508]

Chris Grayling: Neither the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, nor any Ministers in the Department, have had any direct discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland, about the Scottish Parliament's request for oral evidence on the Welfare Reform Bill.

However, the Department keeps in regular contact with the Scottish Government on the subject of welfare reform at both ministerial and official levels.

Officials in the Department contacted the Scotland Office to discuss the invitations received to appear before Scottish Committees.

One of the Department's senior officials gave evidence on the Welfare Reform Bill to the Health and Sport Committee on 22 November 2011.

Welfare Reform: Chronic Pain

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to take into account the situation of people living with *(a)* chronic pain and *(b)* other conditions that are not physically evident in his proposals for welfare reform. [81283]

Maria Miller: We do not believe it right that we should judge people purely on the type of health condition or impairment that they may have. As such neither the work capability assessment nor the assessment for personal independence payment which we are currently developing, focus on the health condition or impairment a claimant has, neither do they require a specific diagnosis. Instead they look at the impact of these and their symptoms, such as pain, on individuals. The work capability assessment focuses on the impact of health conditions or impairments on capability for work, while the assessment for personal independence payment will focus on their impact on ability to carry out a series of key everyday activities.

In both assessments, basing decisions on the best available evidence is critical. This means giving the claimant the opportunity to tell us about the impact of their health condition or impairment in their own words and considering evidence from others involved in supporting claimants, such as GPs, hospital specialists or carers. In most cases, this will also involve a face-to-face assessment with a health professional trained in disability assessment medicine, to explore claimants' individual circumstances in detail. This ensures that decisions take effective account of the impact of health conditions or impairments, regardless of their type.

Work Capability Assessment

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Atos work capability assessments took over 35 days in *(a)* England and *(b)* Makerfield constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [82439]

Chris Grayling: In October 2011 the number of Atos work capability assessments taking over 35 days was:

(a) in England 63,706;

(b) of which 741 were completed at Wigan MEC which is the nearest Medical Examination Centre to Makerfield constituency.

Work capability assessments include employment support allowance (ESA) assessments which have an average actual clearance time (AACT) target of 35 days and other assessments which do not.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were refused employment and support allowance following an assessment carried out by Atos and subsequently appealed the decision in *(a)* England and *(b)* Makerfield constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [82440]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) using the work capability assessment (WCA) rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

Table 1 provides details of initial WCAs completed and appeals heard for claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010 (the latest data for which sufficient volumes of appeals have been heard for publication). Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level, so information for Wigan local authority has been given instead.

Table 1: Outcomes of initial work capability assessment and appeals for England and Wigan local authority for claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010

	England	*Wigan local authority*
All completed WCAs	609,100	5,500
Fit for work	373,500	3,300
Assessed as fit for work (percentage)	61	61
Appeals heard[1]	142,100	1,200
Fit for work with an appeal heard[1] (percentage)	38	38

[1] To date.

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in October 2011 and can be found here: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above comes from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeals includes ESA claims started from October 2008 up to the end of August 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be Fit for Work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service.
4. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.
5. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and are consistent with the official statistics publication referred to in note 1. above.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Aberdeen South (Dame Anne Begg) of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 523-4W, on work capability assessment, if he will publish the data on the number of work capability assessments for reassessed incapacity benefit claimants which were carried out in each week since February 2011. [82502]

Chris Grayling: Up to the week commencing 14 November 191,000 work capability assessments (WCA) resulting from reassessment had been completed. After the WCA, the decision on entitlement to benefit is taken by a DWP decision maker.

No official statistics are available on WCA completed for IB reassessment claimants so the information on the number of WCA completed above is from the Department's Management Information System. It relates to those assessments where Atos have made a recommendation based on either a face to face assessment or cleared by scrutiny of the customer's medical questionnaire. It does not include those customers whose WCA recommendations were returned to Jobcentre Plus because they had not complied with the process.

A weekly or monthly breakdown of the Management Information is not reliable because the data are captured

cumulatively. Therefore assessments undertaken within one week might only be updated in the data as completed in subsequent weeks.

Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process, but only once it has been quality assured and is considered robust.

JUSTICE

Child Protection

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the possible implications for *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau checks and *(b)* child protection of the extension of the Shared Accommodation Rate of Local Housing Allowance to (i) 25 to 34 year olds who are (1) parents with part-custody of their children and (2) women up until the latest stage of pregnancy and (ii) other 25 to 34 year olds; and if he will make a statement. [81117]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to assess any increased risk to children by extending the age threshold of the shared accommodation rate. Criminal Record Bureau checks are not appropriate in these circumstances and so we do not anticipate there being any implications for these.

Community Orders

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 423W, on community orders: voluntary organisations, if he will consider the merits of allowing *(a)* charities and *(b)* community amateur sports clubs the opportunity to claim dispensation from charges of community payback fees by the probation authorities; and if he will make a statement. [82734]

Mr Blunt: The voluntary sector, including charities and sports clubs, is the largest single beneficiary of Community Payback work. The majority of beneficiary organisations are not currently required to make a contribution to the cost of offender supervision. Where probation trusts, and in future potentially other providers of Community Payback, do seek a contribution towards costs, due regard will be given to the circumstances of the organisation which benefits from the work. There needs to be a proper balance between these organisation's circumstances and the need for Community Payback to work for society as a whole; preventing a disproportionate charge on the taxpayer; and preventing consumption of resources that could be directly targeted on services for direct victims of crime.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget his Department allocated to the *(a)* Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, *(b)* Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice, *(c)* Civil Justice Council, *(d)* Civil Procedure Rule Committee, *(e)* Criminal Cases Review Commission, *(f)* Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, *(g)* Criminal Procedure Rule Committee, *(h)* Crown Court Rule Committee, *(i)* Family Justice Council, *(j)* HM Inspectorate of Prisons, *(k)* HM Inspectorate of Probation, *(l)* Insolvency Rules Committee, *(m)* Judicial Appointments Commission, *(n)* Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman, *(o)* Judicial Office, *(p)* Law Commission, *(q)* Legal Services Board, *(r)* Legal Services Commission, *(s)* National Offender Management Service, *(t)* Probation Service, *(u)* Court Funds Office, *(v)* Office of the Information Commissioner, *(w)* Office for Judicial Complaints, *(x)* Legal Ombudsman, *(y)* Office of the Public Guardian, *(z)* Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, (aa) Parole Board, (ab) Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, (ac) Sentencing Council, (ad) Tribunal Procedure Committee, (ae) Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses and (af) Youth Justice Board in the financial year 2011-12. [82519]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The resource budget allocations for 2011-12, as at 31 October 2011, are as follows:

Organisation/body	*£000*
Administrate Justice and Tribunals Council	682
Criminal Cases Review Committee	6,050
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	200,200
HM Inspectorate of Prisons	3,634
HM Inspectorate of Probation	3,848
Judicial Appointments Commission	5,520
Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman	534
Judicial Office	19,524
Law Commission	3,165
Legal Services Commission	2,251,400
National Offender Management Service	2,801,647
Probation Service	820,000
Office of the Information Commissioner	4,586
Office of the Public Guardian	(457)
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	5,158
Parole Board	10,014
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman	5,546
Sentencing Council	1,620
Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses	1,100
Youth Justice Board	393,939

The final budget may vary depending on actual expenditure and the Ministry's priorities.

The Office of the Public Guardian is currently budgeting to receive more income than its expenditure. This is reflected in the organisation's budget.

Budgets for the following bodies are part of larger budgets within the core Department for which no distinct budget allocation is made.

Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice
Civil Procedure Rule Committee
Criminal Procedure Rule Committee
Insolvency Rules Committee
Court Funds Office
Tribunal Procedure Committee.

Budgets for the following bodies are now part of the Judicial Office budget quoted above:

Civil Justice Council
Family Justice Council

Office for Judicial Complaints.

In respect of the following bodies the cost is neutral because these bodies are funded by levies upon the legal profession:

Legal Services Board

Legal Ombudsman.

As at 31 October 2011, no resource budget allocation has been provided to the Crown Court Rule Committee.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of employment and support allowance appeals have been adjourned since 28 February 2011; and how many such appeals were classified category used in social security and child support appeal tribunals. [82694]

Mr Djanogly: Appeals against decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions on an individual's entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) are heard by the First-tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support).

A total of 12,565 ESA appeals were adjourned between 1 March 2011 and 30 September 2011 (the latest date for which statistics have been published); 11.3% of the total number of ESA appeals listed.

There are four adjournment categories used in SSCS tribunals and the adjourning judge determines the most appropriate category for the case being dealt with. The following table shows a breakdown of the reasons for adjournments in this time period:

Appeals adjourned March to September 2011

Adjournment reason as recorded at hearing	*Number of appeals*	*Percentage*
Tribunal Not Ready to Proceed	197	2
Administrators Not Ready to Proceed	524	4
Applicant Not Ready to Proceed	3,868	31
First Tier Agency Not Ready to Proceed	7,976	63
Total	12,565	100

Some examples of the circumstances under which the four categories may be used, are as follows:

Tribunal not ready to proceed

Where the Tribunal requires additional evidence.

Where an applicant was known to a tribunal panel member.

Administrators not ready to proceed

Failure by administrative staff to provide sufficient notice of the appeal hearing.

Failure to observe a previous direction given by a judge.

Arrangement of incorrect panel composition.

Applicant not ready to proceed

Where the applicant requests more time to submit evidence or appoint a representative.

The applicant is unable, due to medical or other reasons, to continue with the hearing.

First-tier Agency not ready to proceed

The submission from the Agency is incomplete/defective or illegible.

The Agency may seek more time to consider evidence handed in on the day.

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what progress he has made in seeking reform of the European Court of Human Rights since the UK assumed the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe; and what meetings he *(a)* has held and *(b)* plans to hold with representatives from (i) the Council of Europe, (ii) the European Court of Human Rights, (iii) the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, (iv) the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights and (v) his counterparts from other countries to discuss the reform of the European Court of Human Rights; [82118]

(2) whether he plans to propose changes to the European Convention on Human Rights as part of the UK Chairmanship of the Council of Europe. [82119]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The UK assumed the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe on 7 November.

As I stated in my answer of 11 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-24WS, the top priority for the UK Chairmanship is reform of the European Court of Human Rights. We aim to deliver a key stage of the reform process that has been ongoing for some years. The way the Court works is set out in the Convention, so reform could involve changes to the Convention if all 47 member states of the Council of Europe agree to it. We will be negotiating and agreeing a package of reforms with all member states during our Chairmanship.

The Commission on a Bill of Rights has also provided interim advice on Court reform, which we will be taking into account during our negotiations.

My ministerial colleagues and I have discussed the reform of the European Court of Human Rights with many key figures in the run up to our Chairmanship, many of which I met when I attended the Izmir Conference earlier this year during the Turkish Chairmanship. We will continue this approach in the coming months.

For example, I met the Secretary General to the Council of Europe during his visit to the UK on 25 October, as did several other Government Ministers. The Attorney-General met with Court judges and officials during his visit to Strasbourg on 2 November and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs attended the handover ceremony in Strasbourg on 7 November. Last week, the Attorney-General and the Minister of State, Lord McNally, attended a conference on the long-term future of the Court at Wilton Park with representatives from across the Council of Europe and its member states. I am due to meet the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights when he visits the UK in December.

My ministerial colleagues and I have also been raising the issue of reform of the Court with our ministerial counterparts in other member states where there has been opportunity for discussion.

Human Rights

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 144-49W and 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 383W, on human rights,

whether there have been any further declarations of incompatibility under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since those answers. [82561]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There have been no further declarations of incompatibility under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since my previous answers. The last such declaration was made in November 2010 in the case of R (on the application of Royal College of Nursing and others) *v.* Secretary of State for Home Department.

Insolvency

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will seek to exempt insolvency proceedings from proposed changes to conditional fee arrangements and after-the-event insurance. [82357]

Mr Djanogly: I refer my hon. Friend, to my answer on 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 871. The Government are aware of the particular issues concerning the impact of the changes to conditional fee agreements and after the event insurance in insolvency proceedings. Departmental officials and I continue to discuss the likely impacts of these changes in relation to insolvency proceedings.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* pleaded guilty and *(b)* were found guilty for a second time of each offence listed in Schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [82521]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of people who were convicted for a second time for each offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2008 to 2010. Attempted offences and offences involving aiding, abetting, conspiracy and incitement are classified with the main offence, and have not been separately identified.

We do not hold reliable information on whether or not these offenders pleaded guilty. The figures relate to separate sentencing occasions; where an offender was sentenced on the same occasion for several offences it is the primary offence that has been counted. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of people who were convicted for a second time for each offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2008 to 2010

Offence	*2006*	*2009*	*2010*
Manslaughter	1	—	—
An offence under section 4 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 (soliciting murder)	—	—	—
An offence under section 18 of that Act (wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm)	194	176	188
An offence under section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968 (possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life)	1	1	—
An offence under section 17(1) of that Act (use of a firearm to resist arrest)	—	—	—
An offence under section 18 of that Act (carrying a firearm with criminal intent)	1	2	—
An offence of robbery under section 8 of the Theft Act 1968 where, at some time during the commission of the offence, the offender had in his possession a firearm or an imitation firearm within the meaning of the Firearms Act	—	—	—
An offence under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 (indecent images of children)	70	59	70
An offence under section 56 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (directing terrorist organisation)	—	—	—
An offence under section 57 of that Act (possession of article for terrorist purposes)	—	—	—
An offence under section 59 of that Act (inciting terrorism overseas) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 47 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (use etc of nuclear weapons).	—	—	—
An offence under section 50 of that Act (assisting or inducing certain weapons-related acts overseas)	—	—	—
An offence under section 113 of that Act (use of noxious substance or thing to cause harm or intimidate)	—	—	—
An offence under section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 (rape)			
An offence under section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (rape)	11	9	4
An offence under section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (assault by penetration)	—	—	—
An offence under section 4 of that Act (causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 5 of that Act (rape of a child under 13)	—	1	2
An offence under section 6 of that Act (assault of a child under 13 by penetration)	—	—	—
An offence under section 7 of that Act (sexual assault of a child under 13)	10	3	3
An offence under section 8 of that Act (causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity)	—	—	—
An offence under section 9 of that Act (sexual activity with a child)	6	11	8
An offence under section 10 of that Act (causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity)	—	1	1
An offence under section 11 of that Act (engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child)	2	3	2

Number of people who were convicted for a second time for each offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2008 to 2010

Offence	*2006*	*2009*	*2010*
An offence under section 12 of that Act (causing a child to watch a sexual act)	—	—	—
An offence under section 14 of that Act (arranging or facilitating commission of a child sex offence)	—	—	—
An offence under section 15 of that Act (meeting a child following sexual grooming etc)	—	—	1
An offence under section 25 of that Act (sexual activity with a child family member) if the offender is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence	—	—	—
An offence under section 26 of that Act (inciting a child family member to engage in sexual activity) if the offender is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence	—	—	—
An offence under section 30 of that Act (sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder impeding choice) if the offender is liable on conviction on Indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 31 of that Act (causing or inciting a person with a mental disorder to engage in sexual activity) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 34 of that Act (inducement, threat or deception to procure sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 35 of that Act (causing a person with a mental disorder to engage In or agree to engage in sexual activity by inducement etc) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 47 of that Act (paying for sexual services of a child) against a person aged under 16	—	—	—
An offence under section 48 of that Act (causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography)	—	—	—
An offence under section 49 of that Act (controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography)	—	—	—
An offence under section 50 of that Act (arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography)	—	—	—
An offence under section 62 of that Act (committing an offence with intent to commit a sexual offence) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—
An offence under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult)	—	—	—
An offence under section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (preparation of terrorist acts)	—	—	—
An offence under section 9 of that Act (making or possession of radioactive device or materials)	—	—	—
An offence under section 10 of that Act (misuse of radioactive devices or material and misuse and damage of facilities)	—	—	—
An offence under section 11 of that Act (terrorist threats relating to radioactive devices, materials or facilities)	—	—	—
Murder	2	—	2
An offence under section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 (intercourse with a girl under 13)	—	—	1
Total	298	266	282

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's risk register for the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [82522]

Mr Djanogly: The financial and delivery risks associated with the policy in the Bill are contained in several documents at corporate and operational level across the Department, rather than in a specific Bill risk register. The impact assessments and equality impact assessments for the Bill detail the potential impacts of the proposals. These are published at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/bills-and-acts/bills/legal-aid-and-sentencing-bill.htm

Misconduct in Public Office: Prosecutions

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the cost of prosecuting the offence of misconduct in public office. [81416]

Mr Blunt: My Department has not received any representations on the cost of prosecuting the offence of misconduct in public office.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for the offence of misconduct in public office there were in each year since 2005; and what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* the Crown Prosecution Service budget and *(b)* the public purse of prosecuting this offence in each year. [81417]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for misconduct in a Public Office under Common Law, in England and Wales, from 2005 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table:

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for 'Misconduct in a public office'[1,2] England and Wales, 2005 to 2010[3,4]

	Proceeded against
2005	10
2006[5]	8
2007	21
2008[6]	12

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for 'Misconduct in a public office'[1,2] England and Wales, 2005 to 2010[3,4]

	Proceeded against
2009	3
2010	3

[1] Is an offence under common law.
[2] Defendants proceeded against for conspiring, aiding or abetting a public official to commit Misconduct in a Public Office are excluded from the data in the above table.
[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used,
[5] Figures provided for 2006 are the result of a validation process between MoJ and the courts.
[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

No general estimate has been made of costs of prosecuting this offence each year. No central record is maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service or for the public purse as a whole of the costs of prosecuting specific offences at this level of detail.

An estimate is available for average Crown court costs of prosecutions related to misconduct in public office, for 2009-10 and 2010-11. These were £427,000 and £422,000 respectively, based on a five-hour sitting day.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much increased operational capacity in each prison in England and Wales is due to *(a)* new prison accommodation becoming available, *(b)* existing accommodation being returned to use, *(c)* an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells and *(d)* other measures since 1 August 2011. [82453]

Mr Blunt: Between Friday 29 July and Friday 18 November 2011 the operational capacity of the total prison estate increased by 1,253 places. The following table shows the number of places during this period which were delivered as a result of *(a)* new prison accommodation becoming available, *(b)* existing accommodation being returned to use, *(c)* an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells and *(d)* other measures.

	Number
(a) new prison accommodation becoming available	338
(b) existing accommodation being returned to use	983
(c) an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells	630
(d) other measures (these are places returning to use at Morton Hall following its change of function to an immigration removal centre)	108
Total	2,059

The table does not reflect those places that have been taken out of use during this period. Places can be taken out of use for a number of reasons. These include the recent operational closure of HMP Latchmere House and one house block at HMP Hewell. Other decreases are the result of accommodation being taken out of use for essential maintenance/refurbishment.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Pregnant Women

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pregnant women were given a custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [82503]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify from these centrally held data whether a female, sentenced to immediate custody, was pregnant.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many mothers with babies were held in prison in each of the last five years; [82505]

(2) how many female prisoners applied for and were refused a place in a mother and baby unit in each of the last five years; [82506]

(3) how many women gave birth while serving a custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [82504]

Mr Blunt: Between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2011 the average population of mothers in mother and baby units in prisons in England was 54. The population of mother and baby units includes expectant mothers.

Between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2011 there were 254 applications received for admission to a mother and baby unit, of which, 26 were refused by a board.

Information prior to this date could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

We do not hold information centrally on women giving birth while serving their sentence, to obtain this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Metal Theft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many scrap metal dealers convicted of offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 have been the subject of an order under section 4 of that Act in each year from 1990 to 2011; [82362]

(2) how many scrap metal dealers have been found guilty of an offence under section 1(8) of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 resulting in a fine in each year from 1990 to 2011; [82363]

(3) how many scrap metal dealers have been prosecuted under section 2 of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in each year from 1990 to 2011; and how many such prosecutions resulted from a failure to comply with section 2(4) of that Act. [82361]

Mr Blunt: Data reported centrally for offences proceeded against under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 do not separately identify sections within the Act. Information is given in the table for the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, sentenced and fined at all courts under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, in England and Wales, for the years 2000 to 2010 (latest available).

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, by result, under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964[1], England & Wales, 2000-10[2,3]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]	2009	2010
Proceeded against	4	3	—	5	5	7	5	5	19	10	21
Found guilty	2	1	—	—	1	3	1	5	12	5	18
Sentenced	2	1	—	—	1	3	1	5	12	5	18
Fine	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	4	11	4	10
Conditional discharge	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	8

[1] Includes: Offences by dealers in scrap metal and similar goods and in marine stores.
[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Supreme Court: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on *(a)* enlarging the appointing commission and *(b)* reforming the appointment procedure for justices in the Supreme Court. [82218]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: On 21 November 2011, I issued a public consultation on judicial diversity and appointments, which includes proposals on the appointments process for justices in the Supreme Court.

Before launching the public consultation, I shared an early draft of the proposals with the President of the Supreme Court.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of work capability assessment decisions made by Atos were overturned on appeal in *(a)* England and *(b)* Makerfield constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [82441]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves. The following tables show the proportion of employment and support allowance appeals cleared at hearing, which were found in favour of the appellant in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Wigan Tribunal venue in September 2011 (the latest date for which statistics have been published) and in the first two quarters of 2011-12. The Wigan Tribunal venue hears appeals from Makerfield constituency as well as other nearby locations.

Outcomes of ESA appeals 1 September 2011 to 30 September 2011

	No. cases cleared at hearing	No. of DWP Decisions Upheld	% Upheld	No. Decided in Favour of Appellant	% in Favour	Other	% other
England[1]	10,898	6,895	63	3949	36	48	0
Wigan	119	80	67	38	32	0	0

Outcomes of ESA appeals 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011

	No. cases cleared at hearing	No. of DWP Decisions Upheld	% Upheld	No. Decided in Favour of Appellant	% in Favour	Other	% other
England[1]	66,158	41,405	63	24,388	37	365	1
Wigan	667	447	67	218	33	2	0

[1] This includes data for all venues based in England. Cases may occasionally be dealt with outside England, in Wales and Scotland.

Note:

This data is taken from management information.

Youth Custody

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 18 were held in custody in England and Wales in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11 inclusive. [82451]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the average number of people under the age of 18 held in the secure estate for children and young people between 2000-01 and 2010-11.

These data are from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refer to Secure Training Centres (STCs), Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). 2000-01 is the earliest date from which data are available that gives information on all secure establishments in the youth estate for this age group (10 to 17-year-olds). The 2010-11 figures are provisional. The final 2010-11 figures will be presented in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication on 26 January 2012.

Table 1. Average secure estate population (10 to 17-year-olds)

	Number
2000-01	2,807
2001-02	2,801
2002-03	3,029
2003-04	2,771
2004-05	2,745
2005-06	2,830
2006-07	2,914
2007-08	2,932
2008-09	2,881
2009-10	2,418
2010-11[1]	2,067

[1] These figures are provisional. The final 2010-11 figures will be presented in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication.

Notes:

1. YJB data referring to Secure Training Centres (STCs), Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). The data does not include 18 to 21-year-olds held in YOI separate units for which the YJB do not hold data.

2. Youth custodial data are published on a monthly basis, this is a monthly snapshot of the custodial population (taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month depending on which is nearer to the actual month end). Each annual figure is calculated as an average of all of the individual months in the year period (i.e. an average of the monthly snapshots) due to monthly fluctuation. Fluctuation arises as custodial population is a factor of number of young people sentenced, sentence length, and time spent on remand.

3. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Youth Justice

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people entered the youth justice system for the first time in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11. [82452]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the number juvenile first time entrants to the criminal justice system in England and Wales are given in the table. The figures cover the years 2000-01 to 2010-11 and are taken from Table Q7.3 of the Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to March 2011 which can be found at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

Figure for years before 2000-01 are not available.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of first time entrants aged between 10 and 17 to the criminal justice system[1] in England and Wales, 12 months ending March 2001 to 12 months ending March 2011

12 month period to the end of March	Number of offenders
2001	90,180
2002	89,277
2003	83,621
2004	88,635
2005	96,252
2006	107,680
2007	110,815
2008	100,444
2009	80,314
2010	62,504
2011	45,519

[1] Offenders recorded on the police national computer by an English or Welsh police force or by the British Transport police operating in England and Wales as having received their first conviction, reprimand or warning.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Standards

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of applying A8 ambulance response time targets by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* local authority area. [82069]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Operating Framework provides for central performance management of the A8 ambulance response time targets at strategic health authority level. It is for local commissioners to determine the level of performance management at the primary care trust and local authority area.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of reviewing A8 ambulance response times in England. [82071]

Mr Simon Burns: Ambulance trusts are performance managed against the target requiring 75% of category A (immediately life threatening) calls to receive a response within eight minutes, which is a headline measure in the NHS Operating Framework. A8 ambulance response times data are published monthly.

The Department is considering changes to strengthen the A8 ambulance response time target. We are looking at the whole system of dealing with care for the most seriously ill patients. We will introduce changes once a safe approach is agreed; but our priority is to maintain the highest quality care.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the setting of ambulance response targets does not adversely affect rural areas. [82072]

Mr Simon Burns: Ambulance trusts are performance managed against two ambulance response targets, which are headline measures in the NHS Operating Framework. Ambulance services have to meet these targets for their geographical area and it is for individual ambulance trusts to decide how to configure their work force to best respond to an emergency.

Clinical quality indicators for the ambulance service came into effect from April 2011 and require each ambulance trust to publish the median time to treatment, the 95th centile time to treatment and 99th centile time to treatment for immediately life-threatening (Category A) calls. The requirement to publish this data, and in particular the 95th centile and 99th centile time to treatment, will ensure that trusts must demonstrate an excellent service to all patients, whether the incident occurs in a rural or urban setting.

Autism

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether people with autism will be involved in developing the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies project; and if he will make a statement; [82483]

(2) what consideration will be given to the needs of people with autism in the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies project; and if he will make a statement; [82484]

(3) what consideration he has given to including training on adapting talking therapies for people with autism in the curriculum for the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies project. [82485]

Paul Burstow: The Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) project has been developed at a national level in partnership with young people and professionals to meet the needs of children and young people. The involvement of children and young people in design of the programme has been co-ordinated through YoungMinds, the national mental health charity for all children and young people including those with autism.

The project aims to transform existing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) by adopting those elements of the IAPT programme which will improve outcomes for children and young people, providing treatment which is based on best evidence and embedding session-by-session outcome monitoring to ensure treatments are quality driven, outcomes focussed and client informed. This service transformation will benefit all children, young people and their parents (referred to the CAMHS that are part of the project) including those with autistic spectrum disorders.

As part of the first phase, the children's IAPT project has developed a curriculum and training package to equip staff to treat a range of emotional disorders, such as anxiety and depression, and for behavioural problems that commonly occur among children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders.

Barnardo's: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding Barnardo's received from his Department in 2010-11; how much he estimates it will receive in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [82594]

Paul Burstow: The Department can confirm that Barnardo's did not receive any funding in 2010-11 nor does it have any plans for 2011-12.

In 2010-11 Barnardo's was a national agent for the Opportunities for Volunteering scheme. In April 2010-11 it did initially receive a payment of £48,250 but this payment was returned to the Department as it was not utilised.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of provision of chronic fatigue specialist services in East Lancashire. [82400]

Paul Burstow: The provision of local health services, including chronic fatigue services, is a matter for local commissioners to determine, in conjunction with local stakeholders and taking into account the healthcare needs of their local communities.

Dental Services: Inspections

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ensure that inspection of dental practices by the Care Quality Commission will only be undertaken by inspectors with appropriate dental expertise; [82459]

(2) what plans he has to use the knowledge and expertise of dental reference officers in the inspection of dental practices by the Care Quality Commission; [82460]

(3) what plans he has to use the knowledge and expertise of dental practice advisers in the regulation of dental practices. [82461]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for its own operational system and the Department is not involved in its inspection procedures. However, we are assured by the CQC that full training on the inspection of dental services is available to all the CQC staff and it is confident that its inspectors can effectively assess dentists' compliance with the registration requirements.

The CQCs inspectors have access to specialist advice when required across all the sectors it regulates. We understand that there is an intention to increase this specialist provision and that the CQC is considering

utilising dental reference officers for this purpose. The CQC employs a national advisor on dentists for two days a week.

Departmental Communication

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 140W, on departmental communication, if he will place in the Library a list of each item of research commissioned by his Department through the Central Office of Information in 2009-10 and the cost to the public purse for each such item. [82230]

Mr Simon Burns: A copy of this information as requested has been placed in the Library. The figures against each project include the Central Office of Information fees.

Diabetes: Young People

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what social and psychological support services his Department makes available to young adults and adolescents with diabetes; [R] [81958]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the health and social needs experienced by young adults and adolescents with diabetes. [R] [81960]

Paul Burstow: It is for the local national health service to commission high-quality and safe diabetes services for all people with diabetes, including social and psychological support services, and services for young adults and adolescents. They are best placed to assess the needs of their local populations, informed by clinical involvement and leadership.

The Department has not made a formal assessment of the health and social needs experienced by young adults and adolescents with diabetes.

General Practitioners: Pay

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary is of a GP in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [82480]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on average salaries for general practitioners (GPs) in both the Ashfield constituency and Nottinghamshire are not available centrally. Information on latest average GP salaries for England and for the strategic health authorities is however reported by the Information Centre for health and social care and is contained in their latest GP Earnings and Expenses 2009-10 final report.

The average England GP salary in 2009-10 is £109,400. The average GP salary within the East Midlands region is £115,700.

Health Professions: Qualifications

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the equivalence of qualifications gained in EU member states and outside the EU to a certificate of completion of training for employment purposes; and if he will make a statement. [82424]

Anne Milton: Doctors must be registered with a licence to practise with the General Medical Council (GMC) to practise medicine in the United Kingdom. All international medical graduates must possess an acceptable primary medical qualification in order to apply for registration with a licence to practise. For European Union doctors, the GMC is required to accept the qualifications of migrants if the member state where the qualifications was obtained is satisfied that they meet the minimum required under the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on qualification levels assessed for employment purposes in the UK as equivalent to a certificate of completion of training for *(a)* each EU member state and *(b)* countries outside the EU. [82425]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold this information.

The General Medical Council (GMC) maintains a list of postgraduate qualifications they accept as providing sufficient evidence of an overseas doctor's knowledge and skill, for the purpose of full registration with a licence to practise. For European Union doctors, the GMC is required to accept the qualifications of migrants if the member state where the qualifications was obtained is satisfied that they meet the minimum required under the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Health Services

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a referral for *(a)* physiotherapy and *(b)* speech therapy was (i) in Mid Sussex constituency, (ii) in the south-east and (iii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [82442]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is currently not collected centrally. The 'Allied Health Professional (AHP) Referral to Treatment (RTT) Guide', published in 2010, sets out a framework of rules for clock starts and clock stops to measure waiting times for patients when accessing national health service AHP services including physiotherapy and speech and language therapy.

Nationally, AHP RTT data collection and reporting was due to be mandated from April 2011, however, as part of the public health spending reviews, the implementation date for collecting data is being reviewed. In the meantime, it is expected that local national health service organisations will collect these data locally to help them identify where service improvement is most needed.

Work between the Department and the NHS Information Centre is in place to ensure the development and mandate of data sets by which the AHP RTT data collected locally can be flowed to a central source for national reporting.

The 'Allied Health Professional Referral to Treatment Guide' has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_115297.pdf

Health Services: Disadvantaged

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of his proposals for health reforms on people experiencing social exclusion. [81939]

Mr Simon Burns: The equality analysis for the Health and Social Care Bill assesses the equality impact of the reforms set out in the Bill, and considers several factors that can contribute to social exclusion. In carrying out this analysis the Department considered the impact in relation to age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race and ethnicity; religion and belief; sex; sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

The equality analysis can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

Separate equality analyses and equality impact assessments have been produced for other aspects of the NHS White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', including an initial equality impact assessment on patient choice published alongside the consultation document 'Greater choice and control', and an initial list of equality opportunities and concerns published alongside a summary of the responses received to the 'Information Revolution' consultation.

An equality impact assessment was also carried out on the Public Health White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', published on 30 November 2010.

Health Services: Regulation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he decided the Care Quality Commission was ready to take on the regulation of *(a)* providers of dental services in 2011 and *(b)* NHS primary medical services in 2012. [82458]

Mr Simon Burns: The timetable for the registration of providers of healthcare and adult social care, including providers of primary dental services and national health service primary medical services, is set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010. These Regulations were approved by Parliament in March 2010 under the previous Government.

Under the terms of the regulations providers of different types of health care and adult social care services were required to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in several waves between April 2010 and April 2012. This phased approach to implementing the new registration system was designed to make the workload of registering around 30,000 providers more manageable for the CQC.

In April 2011, the registration of providers of primary dental service providers and independent ambulance services proved more challenging than had been anticipated and was not completed by 1 April 2011. In the light of this, the Department has put in place regulations that defer the registration of most providers of NHS primary medical services until 1 April 2013. This delay will provide the CQC with the opportunity to ensure that its systems, tools and processes are refined in the light of the experience of earlier registration rounds.

King's Mill Hospital

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for an appointment with a consultant at King's Mill hospital in each of the last five years. [82478]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available. Information on the mean and median time waited[1] in days for an outpatient[2] appointment at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[3], 2005-06 to 2009-10[4] is available in the following table:

	Mean	*Median*
2009-10	30.0	25
2008-09	29.2	25
2007-08	28.0	26
2006-07	33.4	26
2005-06	43.2	35

[1] Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. Waiting times statistics are usually only calculated for first attendances of patients referred by general practitioners and dentists, whereas the Time Waited data here include all referral types. It is unclear whether the data collected has any relevance to subsequent attenders. Analysis of the data has revealed high (up to 100%) percentages of zero day waits for some providers suggesting poor data recording.

[2] It is not possible to specifically select appointments with a consultant, but where the main treating specialty is Nursing (950), Midwifery (560) or Allied Health Professional (960) these have been excluded.

[3] A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or primary care trust). Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded TCs, these data are quoted separately. In these cases, "-X" is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the TCs. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using this data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

[4] HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information maternity services are required to provide to parents about local parenting support services. [82732]

Anne Milton: Health professionals support women and their partners in the transition to parenthood by discussing the postnatal health and social needs of the mother and her baby and by developing an individual plan of postnatal care to address those needs.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline on postnatal care (published in 2006) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Standards for Maternity Care (published in 2008) state that postnatal care should include provision of information to both mothers and fathers on infant care, parenting skills and accessing local community groups.

The Department has also recently (October 2011) launched 'Preparing for Birth and Beyond' pack, an online resource, which aims to help the national health service, local authorities and the voluntary sector involved in planning or running groups for expectant and new parents.

Medicine: Education

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether strategic health authority clusters will be permitted to *(a)* hold back and *(b)* top slice any centrally-provided funding for postgraduate medical education (i) in 2011-12 and (ii) in subsequent years. [82491]

Anne Milton: Postgraduate medical education is funded through the Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget issued to strategic health authorities (SHAs) as part of the annual national health service central budget bundle. It is for SHAs to determine the level of spending necessary to deliver the required outcomes for the various elements of training and development.

MPET is not ring-fenced and it is the responsibility of SHAs to invest the budget appropriately. However, there is an education and training service level agreement (SLA) between SHAs and the Department, which ensures that SHAs are held to account for the funding and quality of the training they provide for healthcare students and the NHS work force. In 2011-12, the SHAs have forecasted to spend £4.873 billion of the £4.879 billion MPET budget.

"Liberating the NHS: Developing the healthcare workforce" set out proposals for a new system for planning and developing the work force. The consultation was followed by the Listening Exercise. More detailed proposals on the new system, across a range of issues including funding, will be published later this year.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on patient safety of levels of funding for postgraduate medical education during the comprehensive spending review period. [82492]

Anne Milton: Postgraduate medical education is funded through the Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) budget issued to strategic health authorities (SHAs) as part of the annual national health service central budget bundle. It is for SHAs to determine the level of spending necessary to deliver the required outcomes for the various elements of training and development.

MPET is not ring-fenced. It is the responsibility of SHAs to invest the budget appropriately and determine the correct number of postgraduate medical trainees, in their area, for the work force needed to deliver services required by patients. The trainee doctors also contribute to service delivery.

The General Medical Council sets the standards for the delivery of postgraduate medical education and quality assures the delivery of training against those standards. Their recommendations are contained in "The Trainee Doctor" (2011). This includes recommendations on essential safeguards on any action by trainees that affects the safety and wellbeing of patients.

The Department has worked in collaboration with SHAs to develop a safety and quality assurance process to ensure that any significant change proposed in the size and shape of the clinical work force has involved clinicians at all levels, maximising on their engagement, leadership and sign off. Where NHS organisations are planning or experience changes to their work force, they will need to demonstrate that their systems, processes and governance arrangements are adequate to uphold the rights of patients covering quality and care of environment, as set out in "Liberating the NHS: Developing the healthcare workforce".

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department plans to allocate to postgraduate medical education during the comprehensive spending review period. [82493]

Anne Milton: Although funding for postgraduate medical education forms part of the wider multi professional education and training (MPET) budget, it is not a separate funding stream. This is in order to provide strategic health authorities (SHAs) with flexibility to address local workforce priorities within the national framework set out in the education and training service level agreement between SHAs and the Department.

In 2011-12, the MPET budget is £4.9 billion. The cash budgets for MPET in 2012-13 will be maintained at the level of this financial year. The level of funding for the remainder of the comprehensive spending review has not yet been confirmed but will reflect the ongoing requirements of the national health service workforce.

Muscular Dystrophy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on establishing a managed clinical network for neuromuscular conditions in each NHS region; and if he will make a statement. [82512]

Paul Burstow: During 2010-11, the 10 regional Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) and National Specialised Commissioning team (NSCT) collaborated to produce a detailed work plan for neuromuscular services.

This neuromuscular work stream is led by East of England SCG working with the individual SCG/NSCT neuromuscular leads. In July, a more formal group was established and the existing work plan was enlarged to include communications and engagement.

A workshop to which patients, carers and support organisations have been invited is scheduled for later this year.

Neurology: Surgery

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for the development of nationally convergent commissioning policies for specialised neurosurgery; who will be responsible for the development process; and what engagement is planned with clinicians and patients. [82017]

Mr Simon Burns: The work on nationally convergent commissioning policies for specialised neurosurgery has been under way since April 2011 and is planned to be completed by October 2012. It includes streams of work led by a national transition team for specialised services working with the current Specialised Commissioning Groups. The responsibility lies with the Specialised Services Transition Oversight Group chaired by the Commissioning Director of NHS Midlands and East with a directly accountable Clinical Assurance Group and Patient and Public Engagement Group. Extensive, nationally co-ordinated engagement is planned with clinicians and users, looking at specific groups of services during 2012.

NHS Staff: Assaults

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the level of assaults on NHS staff in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and if he will make a statement. [81593]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of physical assaults against staff reported by national health service bodies in England has been collected annually since 2004-05. Total figures are in the following table.

Reported physical assaults against NHS staff

	Number
2008-09	54,758
2009-10	56,718
2010-11	57,830

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, can be found in the 'Tables showing the number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff for 2008-09, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' and the 'Table showing the number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2009-10, broken down by NHS trust/PCT' which have already been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff for the year 2010-11, can be found in the 'Tables showing the number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in 2010-11, broken down by NHS Trust/PCT' which has been placed in the Library.

The Government are committed to encouraging NHS organisations to work better with their local police forces to clamp down on anyone who is aggressive and abusive to staff.

Each NHS body has a duty to address the risks to their staff. NHS Protect is the body responsible for leading work to tackle violence against NHS staff. This includes the provision of guidance and operational support to enable trusts to address their responsibilities in relation to the safety and security of their staff and encouraging trusts to work with local police forces to take action against those who are violent or abusive. Where violent incidents do occur, NHS Protect is committed to ensuring that tough action, including all appropriate sanctions, is taken against those who are violent and aggressive against towards NHS staff.

NHS: Reorganisation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in relation to the Health and Social Care Bill since it was published; and how many such requests have been refused in full or in part. [81503]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill had its first reading in the House of Commons on 19 January 2011.

The information is shown in the following table.

Initial freedom of information requests about the Health and Social Care Bill since 19 January 2011

	Number of cases
Full disclosure	27
Partial disclosure	23
Non-disclosure	3
Live cases—as yet unanswered	5
Total	58

Nutrition

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether officials of his Department have assessed the legal arguments submitted to it by the Health Food Manufacturers' Association in relation to the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation, its interpretation and its implementation; and if he will make a statement. [82726]

Anne Milton: Departmental officials have considered the legal arguments submitted to it by the Health Food Manufacturers' Association in relation to the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation.

Palliative Care

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to conduct a review of end-of-life decision-making within the NHS. [82803]

Paul Burstow: The Department has no plans to conduct a review of end of life decision-making.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to agree the Doctors Dispensing Fees Envelope. [81659]

Mr Simon Burns: This matter is the subject of on-going negotiations between the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association and NHS Employers.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to allocate the £8.6 million surplus in the dispensing doctors budget in 2010-11. [81660]

Mr Simon Burns: Negotiations with the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association on dispensing doctor fee scales for 2011-12 continue, including consideration of the underspend that occurred in 2010-11 against the fee scale budget envelope.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to bring about behaviour change amongst parents smoking around children in cars; how his Department plans to evaluate whether such steps are changing parents' behaviour; and whether his Department will bring forward legislative proposals if behaviour change is not successful. [82624]

Anne Milton: In March, we published the "Tobacco Control Plan for England", which sets out our plans to help drive down smoking rates and reduce the harms from tobacco over the next five years. This plan includes our commitment to launch a national marketing campaign, planned for spring 2012, to remind smokers of the risks of exposing children and adults to second hand smoke and to encourage them to stop smoking in their homes and cars when children are present. We will evaluate the impact of the campaign on smokers' behaviour.

Rather than extending smokefree legislation, we want people to recognise the risks of second hand smoke and decide voluntarily to make their cars and homes smokefree.

A copy of the "Tobacco Control Plan for England" has already been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 25 November 2011

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Electoral Register

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the armed forces *(a)* based in the UK and *(b)* based overseas who are registered to vote. [81989]

Peter Luff: The latest survey on service voter registration levels was conducted in 2010 by the Defence Analytical Services and Advice organisation. This survey indicates that 79% of service personnel based in the UK, and 48% of service personnel based overseas, are registered to vote. A copy of the report of this survey is available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of recruits who enlisted *(a)* below the age of 18 and *(b)* aged 18 and above had been in service for 10 years or longer in the latest period for which figures are available. [81830]

Peter Luff: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of recruits who enlisted *(a)* below the age of 18 and *(b)* aged 18 and above extended their service contract beyond the minimum service period in the latest period for which figures are available. [81832]

Peter Luff: This required information is not held. While some information on extensions of service is maintained it is not broken down by age and date of birth.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of recruits who enlisted *(a)* below the age of 18 and *(b)* aged 18 and above left the armed forces before completing (i) phase two training and (ii) their minimum initial service period in the latest period for which figures are available. [81833]

Peter Luff: The required information is not held in the format requested. While information is available on the number who leave the armed forces each year, this is not held against date of birth, and the requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Army have conducted some work in the numbers leaving during training and have identified that in financial year 2010-11, 36.6% of under 18s left before the completion of their phase two training. 28.3% of those who enlisted over the age of 18 left before completing their training.

Armed Forces: Training

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Maritime Composite Training System Phase 1 project; and if he will make a statement. [81380]

Peter Luff: The original budget for the Maritime Composite Training System Phase 1 was £75.61 million. The project was delivered in August 2011 and within budget at a final projected cost of £73.75 million.

The Maritime Composite Training System project was not delivered by a consortium but by the prime contractor, BAE Systems Mission Systems.

Astute Class Submarines

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Astute Nuclear Submarine project. [81382]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* As recorded in the Major Project Report 2011 recently published by the National Audit Office, the original approved budget and projected final costs for the Astute Class submarines are as follows:

£ million

	Original budget	*Projected final cost*
Boats 1 to 3 (Batch 1)	2,223	3,480
Boat 4	1,279	1,404
Boat 5	623	586
Boat 6	255	253

The current approved level of spend on Astute Boats 5 to 6 do not reflect the total costs of these boats as they undergo incremental approval. The Boat 5 approval includes the nuclear reactor, other long lead items and the initial build work. The Boat 6 approval includes the nuclear reactor core and long lead items.

The cost increases are well documented through previous Major Projects Reports; however, the programme is now on a much firmer footing.

HMS Astute achieved its in-service date in 2010. The timescales for in-service delivery of the remaining boats are shown in the following table:

	Delivery date
Ambush	2013
Artful	2015
Audacious	2018
Anson	2020
Boat 6	2022
Boat 7	2024

The Astute Class submarines are not delivered by a consortium but by the prime contractor, BAE Systems Submarine Solutions.

BAE Systems

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* individuals on the announcement of redundancies by BAE Systems. [73164]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has not received any formal representations from trade unions or other staff networks following the announcement of job losses at BAE Systems. The Department has received some correspondence on this issue, it has been raised during other parliamentary and ministerial business and the Minister for International Security, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth), met the trade unionists representing workers at both Brough and Warton at the Conservative party conference. This limited correspondence reflects the fact that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have taken the lead within Government for working with the company, local authorities and local enterprise partnerships to make sure everything possible is done to help those affected at Brough, Warton and Samlesbury and other sites.

Defence: Lancashire

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the prospect of future job losses at defence manufacturing sites in Lancashire. [81262]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's first responsibility when procuring equipment is to provide the armed forces with the capabilities they require at a cost which is affordable and represents value-for-money for the UK taxpayer. Future employment prospects are a matter for the companies concerned, although we recognise that our choices in defence acquisition have a significant and long-term impact on UK industry, and therefore on the livelihood of many of our citizens. The Government are actively supporting defence export campaigns overseas including those for the Typhoon fast-jet which is competing in various competitions including India, Japan, Malaysia and Qatar and which, if successful, will both protect and create jobs in Lancashire and in other parts of the UK.

Defence: Procurement

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Typhoon Future Capability Programme. [80810]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The original budget for the Typhoon Future Capability Programme was £449 million. The projected final cost is £458 million as at 31 March 2011. This increase is due to foreign exchange rate fluctuations. Both of these figures include the assessment, and demonstration and manufacture phases. The expected time scale for delivery, as set out in the 2011 Major Projects Review (in-service date) is June 2012. The primary contractor is the Eurofighter GmbH consortium, which comprises Alenia, BAE Systems and Cassidian.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has awarded through the Framework Agreement Technical Support process *(a)* since the Strategic Defence and Security Review and *(b)* in the financial year 2011-12; and what the value is of each such contract. [81903]

Peter Luff: The number of tasks awarded to companies providing technical support services under the Framework Agreement for Technical Support is 897 since the Strategic Defence and Security Review, (SDSR) and 345 in the financial year 2011-12 to date.

The following table shows the number of tasks awarded by value band:

	Tasks
Since Strategic Defence and Security Review	
< £50,000.00	416
£50,000.00 to £99,000.00	230
£100,000.00 to £199,000.00	137
£200,000.00 to £299,000.00	42
£300,000.00 to £399,000.00	16
£400,000.00 to £499,000.00	9
£500,000.00 to £599,000.00	10
£600,000.00 to £699,000.00	5
£700,000.00 to £799,000.00	5
£800,000.00 to £899,000.00	5
£900,000.00 to £999,000.00	2
£1 million to £1.999 million	11
£2 million to £2.999 million	3
£3 million to £3.999 million	3
£4 million to £4.999 million	1
£5 million+	3
Financial year 2011-12	
< £50,000.00	125
£50,000.00 to £99,000.00	101
£100,000.00 to £199,000.00	65
£200,000.00 to £299,000.00	12
£300,000.00 to £399,000.00	9
£400,000.00 to £499,000.00	4
£500,000.00 to £599,000.00	4
£600,000.00 to £699,000.00	3
£700,000.00 to £799,000.00	2
£800,000.00 to £899,000.00	5
£900,000.00 to £999,000.00	1
£1 million to £1.999 million	6
£2 million to £2.999 million	2
£3 million to £3.999 million	2
£4 million to £4.999 million	1
£5 million+	3

Defence: Sales

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 413-4W, on the Navy, when

the announcement was made that HMS Trafalgar had been declared surplus; and what the status is of HMS Turbulent. [82487]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* HMS Trafalgar was withdrawn from service on 31 December 2009 and is currently being decommissioned and prepared for storage afloat at Her Majesty's Naval Base Devonport prior to final disposal through the Submarine Dismantling Project. It is not normal practice to formally announce the decommissioning of Royal Navy submarines. HMS Turbulent is currently deployed on operations.

In my answer to the hon. Member on 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 413-14W, I stated that HMS Triumph has been declared surplus. It has since been brought to my attention that this is not the case. I apologise for the error made and this answer corrects the *Official Report*.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors; [66612]

(2) how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66614]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's policy requires that specific provisions on apprenticeships and other training are drawn up in our contracts where this is relevant to the performance of the contract. We also look at this issue as part of the supplier selection and contract award processes, where it is relevant to the procurement. We do not maintain centralised records of the number of apprenticeships created as a result of defence contracts. Defence suppliers are, however, among the largest employers of apprenticeships in the UK.

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets with a value of £250,000 or more his Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [77413]

Peter Luff: A list detailing assets with a value of over £250,000 that the Ministry of Defence has bought since May 2010 will be placed in the Library of the House. We are not able to provide a purpose for each item without incurring disproportionate cost. Information on every item bought has not been listed for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies; [80188]

(2) how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80199]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's (MOD)'s central management information records on contracts and expenditure do not include a specific category for design services, and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on design services across the MOD is determined by business need and must be appropriate, cost effective and a proper charge to public funds.

Food Procurement

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on food procurement in each year from 1997 to 2011. [80319]

Peter Luff: At any one time, some 70% of UK based armed forces personnel are catered for under a number of Catering, Retail and Leisure (CRL) and other multi-activity contracts (incorporating Pay As You Dine arrangements) to deliver this and other services. Food is procured at the contractors' risk and the only payment received in respect of this is at the point of sale. The price of the core meal, covering breakfast, lunch and dinner is capped by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

For UK based armed forces personnel not covered by these contractual arrangements and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract for which the following information is available:

Single food supply expenditure

Financial Year	*£ million*
2001-02	113
2002-03	114
2003-04	139
2004-05	128
2005-06	139
2006-07	135
2007-08	145
2008-09	176
2009-10	165
2010-11	199

These figures include the cost of food, administration and transport.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has also procured Operational Ration Packs over the same period for which the following information is available:

Operational ration pack expenditure

Financial Year	*£ million*
2001-02	14.6
2002-03	16.6
2003-04	26.7
2004-05	23.7
2005-06	15.6
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	18.1
2008-09	25.4
2009-10	23.3
2010-11	36.4

Financial records prior to Financial Year 2001-02 are no longer available.

Increases to expenditure are attributable to food price inflation, implementing improvements in the nutritional quality of provisions and enhancements to the pre-deployment training package to ensure it reflects all aspects of the operational environment, including the catering system available.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of food served *(a)* to the armed forces and *(b)* in his Department is sourced locally by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81528]

Peter Luff: There is no generally accepted definition of what is meant by 'locally sourced food' and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not routinely collect information on the percentage of food sourced in this way.

Catering for MOD civilian personnel employed at UK defence establishments is provided through regional prime contracts or under multi-activity contracts. Armed forces personnel 'in barracks' are primarily catered for through a number of Catering, Retail and Leisure (CRL) and other multi-activity contracts. Contractors appointed under these arrangements source on the open market consistent with meeting EU competition rules and quality standards.

For armed forces personnel not covered by these contractual arrangements and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd (PFS). PFS lists approximately 1,150 different food related items for the armed forces in the core range price list. They estimate that approximately 60% of lines listed (excluding fresh produce) are sourced from suppliers within the UK. The percentage of UK produced goods changes regularly as a result of seasonality; value for money incentives and changes of supplier. Some products are manufactured using a number of ingredients from various countries including the UK while others, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, are sourced seasonally from a variety of countries.

Departmental Publications

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many copies of his Department's document, The Strategy for Defence, October 2011 have been published; and if he will make a statement; [81268]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of producing his Department's document, The Strategy for Defence, October 2011; and if he will make a statement; [81270]

(3) who was sent a copy of his Department's document, The Strategy for Defence, October 2011; and if he will make a statement. [81412]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Strategy for Defence is the Ministry of Defence's topmost statement of its strategic direction. It provides the means by which the long-term strategic direction established by the 2010 National Security Strategy (Cm 7953) and Strategic Defence and Security Review (Cm 7948) will be implemented.

A copy of the Strategy for Defence was sent to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy), the noble Lord, Lord Rosser of Ickenham, the noble Lady, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, my right hon. Friend the Member for North East Hampshire (Mr Arbuthnot) and all other members of the Defence Select Committee.

The Strategy for Defence was published with a limited print run of 1,000 copies, at a total publishing cost of £716.66. It is freely available on the internet at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PolicyStrategyandPlanning/StrategyForDefence.htm

Departmental Redundancy

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many staff made redundant in his Department have been rehired by his Department *(a)* in a permanent post, *(b)* on a temporary or fixed-term contract and *(c)* as an external consultant in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [82027]

(2) whether any staff made redundant have been *(a)* rehired and *(b)* contracted to provide services to his Department in the last 12 months for which figures are available; what the cost was of redundancy payments to such staff; and what the likely cost will be of (i) rehiring and (ii) contracting such staff in the next 12 months. [82028]

Peter Luff: No civil servants who left the Ministry of Defence (MOD) employment on the grounds of redundancy between 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2011 have subsequently been rehired on employment contracts by MOD.

MOD personnel who take up employment on leaving public service are obliged to seek clearance under the business appointment rules for public servants. Such clearance may be granted unconditionally or with conditions. For example, in the case of consultancies, there may be a requirement to seek official approval before accepting commissions of a particular nature, or from named employers. The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments publishes information on former senior Crown servants who have taken up appointments since 1 April 2010 on its website:

http://acoba.independent.gov.uk/former_crown_servants_appointments.aspx

The MOD does not hold centrally information on former employees who may have been engaged by companies to work on consultancy contracts or other contracts for services. We contract with companies to provide services within specific timescales. The assignment of individuals to particular contracts is a matter for the companies involved.

Domestic Violence

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many domestic violence awareness courses were held on army premises in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [81716]

Peter Luff: Information on the number of domestic violence awareness courses held on army premises in England and Wales is not held in the format requested.

Domestic violence is an issue we take extremely seriously and personnel are provided with information and briefings on the subject. The Army Welfare Service has organised nine courses on domestic violence awareness to unit welfare staff this financial year. In addition, Regional Army Brigades hold awareness courses for their personnel to educate them about domestic abuse, as required.

A new Joint Services Publication 913: "Tri-Service Policy on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence" was recently published and a copy is available in the Library of the House.

Free domestic abuse awareness training is also available online via the Independent Domestic Abuse Service website.

Military Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the comparative intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capabilities of *(a)* Sentinel R1 and *(b)* unmanned air systems; and if he will make a statement. [78250]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is reviewing the Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance programme, including both Sentinel R1 and Unmanned Air Systems.

Military Products

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of small UK businesses specialising in the design and manufacture of military products to supplying the armed forces in the *(a)* medium and *(b)* long-term; [67102]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the outcome of the strategic defence and security review on small UK businesses specialising in the design and manufacture of military products. [67103]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review has been a necessary part of the process of bringing the Defence programme into balance with the resources available. We recognise that our choices in defence acquisition have a significant and long-term impact on UK industry and their supply chain, and therefore on the livelihood of many of our citizens.

Small UK businesses provide a range of vital niche capabilities, often bringing innovation and responsiveness that we particularly value in responding to demanding and rapidly evolving military requirements. We have consulted through our Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security Green Paper on ways to make opportunities more accessible to small companies, both directly and through prime contractors. The results of that consultation have been taken into account in developing the White Paper that I expect to publish next month.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the cost of implementation of the EU agency workers directive; and if he will make a statement. [83232]

Mr Davey: On 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-28WS, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills announced a commitment to review the paperwork obligations, within 18 months, of the agency workers regulations, identifying opportunities to simplify them. The Government will also monitor the impact of the regulations on our economy and contribute to the EU Commission's review of the directive in December 2013.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Inspections

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many statutory investigations into charities the Charity Commission carried out in each of the last three years; how many it expects to carry out in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [83098]

Mr Hurd: I refer the hon. Member to the previous answers I gave on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 717-18W.

Immigration Controls: Multinational Companies

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of overseas direct investment *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of gross domestic product into (i) the UK, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales, (iv) England and (v) Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years. [82737]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of overseas direct investment (a) in cash terms and (b) as a proportion of gross domestic product into (i) the UK, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales, (iv) England and (v) Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years (82737).

The Office for National Statistics does not collect data for direct investment into the UK at a subnational level; it is only available for investment into the UK as a whole. The table provides figures for the financial flows and balance sheet levels of direct investment in the UK for 2006 to 2010, in both cash terms and as a percentage of gross domestic product.

The information on the flows and levels of direct investment into the UK is consistent with the data published in the quarterly Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin on 25 October 2011 and with the data published in the United Kingdom Balance of Payments Pink Book on 23 November 2011.

Foreign direct in vestment in the UK

	Financial flows[1]		*Levels, at end year*[2]	
	£ million	*As a percentage of GDP*	*£ million*	*As a percentage of GDP*
2006	84889	6.39	577338	43.5
2007	99974	7.11	613833	43.7
2008	48427	3.38	660371	46.1
2009	45166	3.24	652280	46.8
2010	28936	1.98	692947	47.5

[1] The figures are consistent with the Financial Account, Table J of the UK Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin Q2 2011.
[2] The figures are consistent with the International Investment Position, Table K of the UK Balance of Payments Statistical Bulletin Q3 2011.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Students

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is his policy that students will continue to be exempt from council tax under his proposals for council tax benefit localisation. [83263]

Robert Neill: The Government have no plans to change the rules governing the council tax exemption for full-time students.

Empty Property: Council Tax

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure adequate support for private landlords in the commercial property sector by reviewing his policy of applying full business rates to empty properties. [82625]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for York Outer (Julian Sturdy), on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 2MC, and to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

Business rates policy in Wales is a devolved matter.

Growing Places Fund

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes he expects will be built using funding from the Growing Places Fund. [82789]

Grant Shapps: The Growing Places Fund is intended to support local infrastructure projects which unlock housing and economic growth. It will be for local areas to decide priorities and which projects to support, and we have not set any Whitehall targets for the number of houses to be built.

Holiday Accommodation: Non-Domestic Rates

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many holiday let properties are registered for small business rate relief in each local authority area. [82339]

Robert Neill: This information is not collected centrally.

Local Government: Procurement

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the proportion of invoices by value paid by local government to suppliers within *(a)* 30, *(b)* 60 and *(c)* 90 days of receipt in each month of 2011. [82327]

Robert Neill: Information on the proportion of invoices paid by local authorities to suppliers within 30, 60, or 90 days of receipt is not collected centrally by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Recreation Spaces

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish detailed proposals on local green space designations. [82378]

Robert Neill: The draft National Planning Policy Framework published for consultation in July included our proposals for a new Local Green Space designation. Responses to the consultation are being given careful consideration. The Government are committed to publication of the final version of the framework by 31 March 2012, but intend to do so well ahead of that time.

Right to Buy Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether replacement homes will be required to be built in the area where a home is sold under the right to buy scheme. [82795]

Grant Shapps: 'Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England', published on 21 November 2011, outlined three possible models for the delivery of new homes to replace additional homes sold through the Right to Buy scheme. We will be consulting shortly on the best way to ensure delivery of replacement homes across England.

Second Homes: Council Tax

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were entitled to second home council tax relief in each local authority area. [82343]

Robert Neill: Details of the number of dwellings that were registered as second homes for council tax purposes in each local authority area in England at the beginning of October 2011 were published in a statistical release on Wednesday 16 November and are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltaxbase2011

The data are taken from the council tax base form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what budget Arts Council England has set for *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Birmingham in each of the next five years; [82739]

(2) what Arts Council England *(a)* allocated and *(b)* unallocated budgets for (i) the west midlands and (ii) Birmingham are for each of the next five years. [82740]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England's (ACE) regularly funded organisations (RFOs) are currently in the final year of their funding agreements, however, ACE have announced their decisions for the following three years for their national portfolio organisations (NPOs) and bridge delivery organisations (BDO). The following table shows funding for the west midlands and Birmingham. At this time, the indicative figures for 2015-16 are not available.

£

	2011-12 (as RFOs)	*2012-13 (as NPOs)*	*2013-14 (as NPOs)*	*2014-15 (as NPOs)*
West midlands total RFO/NPO funding	38,615,142	38,394,537	39,378,924	40,295,549
West midlands BDO funding	0	1,124,000	1,152,999	1,183,208
Total west midlands allocated funding	38,615,142	39,518,537	40,531,923	41,478,757
Birmingham	18,021,675	17,394,446	17,841,751	18,237,957

Although ACE take into account the geographical balance of their "Grants for the Arts" and "Strategic funding portfolios" when making decisions, they do not set separate budgets for local authority areas, and are unable to provide figures into the future for unallocated budgets by locality.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England plans to allocate to *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82741]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England's (ACE) regularly funded organisations are currently in the final year of their funding agreements, however, ACE have announced their decisions for the following three years for their national portfolio organisations (NPOs) and bridge delivery organisations.

The following tables list the breakdown of this funding by the local authorities requested. At this point in time, indicative figures for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are not available.

NPO funding

£

Local authority	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
(a) Birmingham	17,394,446	17,841,751	18,237,957
(b) Newcastle upon Tyne	5,392,516	5,631,012	5,662,303
(c) Wakefield	2,393,374	2,450,815	2,515,833
(d) Manchester	8,855,333	9,067,506	9,279,515
(e) Leeds	16,234,055	16,627,854	17,056,419
(f) Liverpool	8,068,483	8,250,696	8,507,338
(g) Coventry	1,591,103	1,627,698	.1,671,909
(h) Bristol	4,092,875	4,187,010	4,295,875
(i) Sheffield	2,564,832	2,624,725	2,686,010
(j) Bradford	1,123,596	1,163,478	1,200,718
(k) Leicester	2,440,400	2,496,529	2,561,440
(l) Nottingham	4,004,400	4,096,501	4,203,012

Bridge delivery organisations

£

	2012-13	*2013-14*
Leicester	900,000	923,220
Leeds	1,124,000	1,152,999

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the Arts Council England's Bridge Network organisations cover every region of the country. [83087]

Mr Vaizey: From April 2012, each region of England will have a dedicated Bridge Network Organisation.

The Bridge organisations are:

East: Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Royal Opera House

East Midlands: Mighty Creatives

London: A New Direction working with four 'Associate Bridge organisations' Sadlers Wells, Roundhouse, Apples and Snakes, and Lyric Hammersmith

North East: The Sage Gateshead

North West: Curious Minds

South East: Artswork

South West: RIO (Real Ideas Organisation)

West Midlands: Black Country Children's Services Improvement Partnership

Yorkshire: Cape UK

Arts: Birmingham

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many jobs he estimates will be created through the Birmingham Creative City programme by *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2017 and *(d)* 2019. [83089]

Mr Vaizey: The Birmingham 'Creative City' initiative is led by Birmingham city council and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with a range of other partners. This Department fully supports their plans. The overall aims of the LEP are to create 100,000 private sector jobs by 2020, towards which the 'Creative City' initiative will contribute. A further breakdown of the number of jobs created specifically by the 'Creative City' initiative, and in the years leading up to 2020, is not available.

Arts: Finance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding the *(a)* Birmingham Eastside, *(b)* Southampton, *(c)* Doncaster, *(d)* Leicester and *(e)* Colchester creative quarter projects will receive in each of the next four years. [83088]

Mr Vaizey: Decisions on lottery funding are a matter for the lottery distributing bodies to determine, independently of Government, in response to applications that they receive. It is not possible therefore to determine what national lottery support these projects would receive in future years. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 668W, for information about the ways in which we are supporting the cultural projects in Birmingham Eastside, Southampton, Doncaster, Leicester and Colchester.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the extent of reliance of Government departments on London-based design companies to undertake design work for them; and if he will take steps to increase the number of design companies based outside London that are used by the Government. [83086]

Mr Vaizey: No overall assessment has been made as design procurement is a matter for individual Departments. However, all design work across Government is procured through approved frameworks that feature a range of designers based in and outside of London.

Olympic Games: Russia

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions the Royal Parks Authority has had with the organisers of the Sochi Winter Olympics on possible siting of advertisements in Hyde Park; and if he will make a statement. [83099]

Mr Vaizey: The Royal Parks is in contact with Sochi 2014 Organising Committee about a number of issues. There have been no discussions about the siting of advertising in Hyde park.

Tate Galleries

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received supporting the opening of further branches of the Tate Gallery in Scotland and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [81607]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* This Department has not received representations of support to open further branches of the Tate Gallery in Scotland and Wales. The Tate's intention is to work in partnership and help strengthen access to the visual arts beyond its own four galleries in London, Liverpool and St Ives. This is achieved through the Plus Tate programme, which works with 18 venues across the UK to foster a climate of partnership and exchange:

http://www.tate.org.uk/about/ourpriorities/audiences/tatenational/tateconnects/

through the Turner Prize (which in 2011 will be held at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead), and through Artist Rooms, a national collection of contemporary art jointly owned and managed by the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate, which is shared with museums and galleries throughout the UK.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Written Questions: Government Responses

Natascha Engel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to answer question 41654, on public reading stages for bills, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Derbyshire on 15 February 2011 for answer on 17 February 2011. [80895]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I answered the hon. Member's question on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 533W.

EDUCATION

Internet Bullying

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to tackle online bullying. [81727]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* Online bullying, or cyber-bullying, is a key issue of concern for children and young people. The Government made a clear commitment to tackle all forms of bullying in the Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching". In July 2011 we issued advice for schools on preventing and tackling bullying, including cyber-bullying. This advice also provides information on anti-bullying resources and specialist support.

We have updated statutory guidance to school governors, clarifying their legal powers to tackle bullying and cyber-bullying; and new powers in the Education Act 2011 strengthen the authority of teachers to enforce discipline and promote good behaviour.

The new Ofsted inspection framework, which comes into force in January next year, will place a sharper focus on behaviour and bullying, increasing schools' accountability in this area.

In addition, the Department sponsors Beatbullying to deliver CyberMentors which is a unique peer mentoring support programme, available to children and young people both offline and online.

Together with the Minister for Crime and Security, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), I jointly chair the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS). This brings together over 180 organisations and individuals from government, industry, law enforcement, academia, charities and parenting groups. Its aim is to work in partnership to help keep children and young people safe online. One of the projects being taken forward by the council is focused on raising the awareness and understanding of children and young people, parents, and schools, of internet safety issues including cyber-bullying.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82580]

Tim Loughton: The Department has taken one set of official photographs of Ministers since May 2010. As part of their wider duties, a small number of communications officers take digital photographs of Ministers at official events and visits for publication on the Department's website and digital media.

Head Teachers: Recruitment

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure high quality head teachers are recruited in schools. [78238]

Mr Gibb: The National Professional Qualification for Headship, delivered through the National College for School Leadership, is designed to prepare candidates for headship. To ensure that the qualification continues to provide the key skills required for leadership the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has asked the National College to undertake a full review of the qualification.

The Department also funds the National College to work with local authorities and schools to identify, develop and recruit high quality leaders, particularly in those areas experiencing the greatest difficulties. This work will increasingly transfer to the new network of teaching schools. In addition, the college is funded to provide a range of leadership development programmes to identify and train the next generation of school leaders. This includes the Future Leaders programme which aims to support talented teachers into headship in four years. The Academies programme is also providing the opportunity for great heads to totally transform underperforming schools.

Schools: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many secondary schools have received funding for the release of PE teachers to organise School Games to date; and if he will make a statement. [81698]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Department has arranged for 4,189 secondary schools to be paid to release a PE teacher for one day a week to promote competitive sport. The payments were made through local authorities and the Young People's Learning Agency. Schools are encouraged to use these teachers to provide specialist PE and sport support to local primary schools and within their own school; to embed good practice; and to provide more competitive sport for all pupils, including the School Games.

Vocational Guidance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the percentage change in each local authority's *(a)* total and *(b)* per capita expenditure on Connexions services between 2009-10 and 2010-11. [82607]

Mr Gibb: We do not hold information on expenditure on Connexions and careers services by local authorities. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, Connexions funding was paid to local authorities as part of the Area Based Grant. This was not ringfenced and local authorities were free to use the money to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas.

Young People: Unemployment

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged between 16 and 19 were not in education, training or employment in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each of the last five years. [78236]

Tim Loughton: The official national estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. However, these data cannot be disaggregated to parliamentary constituency level because they are in part based on sample data for employment.

We can estimate the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET at a sub-national level using data collected by local authorities. The figures for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NEET in each year between 2006/07 and 2010/11, for the Kent local authority, are shown in the following table. Note that due to methodological differences, estimates for young people NEET based on local authority data tend to be lower than the official estimates for NEET in the SFR.

Number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET[1]

	Average number NEET in the three months November to January—Kent	
	Number	*Percentage of 16 to 18 year cohort*
2006-07	2,958	6.4
2007-08	2,531	5.2
2008-09	2,283	4.7
2009-10	2,438	4.9
2010-11	2,443	4.9

[1] Actual age.

Note:
Figures for 19-year-olds are not available.

Source:
CCIS.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the UK's potential to achieve self-sufficiency in the sourcing of biomass; over what period such self-sufficiency could be achieved; and if he will make a statement. [83029]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 35-36W.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department *(a)* is considering and *(b)* plans to consider the use of (i) air capture and (ii) other types of mitigation technology in meeting the carbon emission targets for 2050. [82415]

Gregory Barker: We recognise that air-capture and other geo-engineering technologies may have a role to play in the future in supporting our climate change mitigation efforts, but current understanding of the risks, benefits, impacts, costs and feasibility of these techniques is at a very low level. Research is needed to address these evidence gaps before their potential role in meeting emission targets can be addressed, and we follow the activities of researchers in this field with interest.

Meanwhile our priority is to tackle the human causes of global warming at source by reducing human emissions of greenhouse gas emissions. We are committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors in order to transition to a low-carbon economy and achieve our 2050 target.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution of mitigation technologies such as air capture to reducing carbon emissions. [82799]

Gregory Barker: Technologies such as air-capture are at a very immature stage; current understanding of the risks, benefits, impacts, costs and feasibility is at a very low level and therefore we cannot say what contribution they may make. However we follow developments closely.

Climate Change Conference

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take during the climate negotiations in Durban to ensure rules for land use, drainage and foresting reflect the actual emissions from logging forests and changes in other land uses. [82633]

Gregory Barker: Our aim is that the LULUCF sector should make a full contribution to emissions mitigation in a future climate agreement, including proper accounting of increases and decreases in carbon stocks due to bio-energy and other drivers. We want developed countries to include all managed forests on a mandatory basis and to introduce a new activity covering wetland drainage and -rewetting. We shall expedite as far as possible inclusion of non-forestry activities, which also cover crop-and grazing land management. These will probably remain voluntary pending the outcome of scientific work on more comprehensive approaches. For developing countries we aim to agree a decision or decisions on finance, methodological issues and safeguards related to reduced emission from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82546]

Gregory Barker: The Department and each non-departmental body have annual internal audit programmes delivered by independent internal audit functions reporting to the appropriate accounting officers, approved and monitored by audit committees and delivered throughout the year to agreed schedules.

Energy: Exports

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the sale of *(a)* oil, *(b)* gas, *(c)* petroleum and *(d)* electricity to other countries; what his policy is on such sales; when it was last revised; what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the matter; what recent representations he has received from members of the public on the matter; how many hon. Members wrote to his Department on behalf of constituents on the matter in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [83108]

Charles Hendry: The Department makes no special provision to encourage such sales to other countries. Government policy is to promote effective energy markets and encourage and support trade. This has not been the subject of recent discussions with ministerial colleagues. Correspondence records do not indicate recent representations on this matter.

Energy: Housing

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many hon. Members wrote to his Department on behalf of constituents about *(a)* his plans to alleviate fuel poverty in the private rented sector, *(b)* the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 and *(c)* the disconnection of (i) gas and (ii) electricity supplies in the last 12 months; what the average time taken to reply was; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such reply; and if he will make a statement. [R] [83107]

Gregory Barker: DECC aims to reply to 80% of ministerial correspondence within 15 working days of receipt. In the last 12 months:

(a) 148 hon. Members wrote 240 letters to DECC about alleviating fuel poverty in the private rented sector. Two replies, or 1%, were overdue.

(b) 216 hon. Members wrote 378 letters to DECC about the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. 37 replies, or 10%, were overdue.

(c) (i) Two hon. Members wrote two letters to DECC about the disconnection of gas supplies. Both replies were overdue.

(ii) No hon. Members wrote to DECC about the disconnection of electricity supplies.

It would not be appropriate to provide the Libraries of the House with copies of correspondence relating to individuals for data protection reasons.

Energy: Meters

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what consideration his Department has given to costs incurred by consumers with early smart or smart-type meters when switching suppliers; [81717]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that energy suppliers do not refuse new customers because they have a smart or smart-type meter; [81718]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that rental agreements between smart meter providers and energy suppliers do not present barriers to consumers switching suppliers. [81719]

Charles Hendry: There should be no cost when switching supplier unless the consumer has entered into a contract with penalties for early termination. Energy suppliers are required to offer all domestic consumers terms for supply; the presence of a smart-type meter does not change this obligation. Ofgem has consulted on proposals that will require suppliers to work together to ensure that domestic customers with smart meters can switch supplier while maintaining smart functionality where possible. I understand that it plans to publish final proposals by the end of the year.

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the average proportion of a consumer's domestic energy costs which will be used to fund the smart meter roll-out; [82016]

(2) on what date payments towards the smart meter roll-out will *(a)* begin and *(b)* cease to be collected from consumers' bills; [82023]

(3) what consideration he has given to placing a cap on the funding to be provided from consumers for the smart meter roll-out. [82024]

Charles Hendry: We expect consumers to benefit from lower energy bills as a result of the smart meters roll-out. This benefit is driven by consumers using energy more efficiently and by suppliers passing through net cost savings. For example, suppliers will be able to greatly reduce the number of premises they visit. The updated impact assessment, published in August 2011, estimates that the smart meter roll-out will reduce the average household electricity and gas bill by £22 in 2020—equating to around 2% of the total bill—and by £42 in 2030.

In the interim period, as suppliers are responsible for funding the equipment and installations, we expect that they will pass these additional costs through to consumers. In 2015, when the bill increase is most pronounced, we estimate the average annual bill will be £6 higher per household; this equates to less than 1% of the total bill. As the roll-out progresses, the costs to suppliers will decrease and they will realise net savings. Energy suppliers have commercial incentives to keep their costs to a minimum. Savings are expected to be passed on to consumers by suppliers, under competitive pressures, in the form of lower energy prices.

Feed-In Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of community benefit in respect of his Department's consultation on feed-in tariffs he uses; and if he will make a statement. [82691]

Gregory Barker: The recently published consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) states that the Government are considering whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to be able to fully benefit from FITs. The forthcoming second consultation on the comprehensive review will seek views on the scope of a definition of "community scheme" and how it will be applied.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether local authorities are to be included within the scope of community benefit proposed in respect of feed-in tariff changes; and if he will make a statement. [82693]

Gregory Barker: The recently published consultation on feed-in tariffs states that the Government are considering whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to be able to fully benefit from FITs. The forthcoming second consultation on the comprehensive review will seek views on the scope of a definition of community scheme including whether it should include local authorities.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on his proposed changes to feed-in tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [82697]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers have regular discussions with Ofgem on a range of issues which includes the proposed changes to feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics under Phase 1 of the comprehensive review. There has also been contact on these proposals at official level.

Green Deal Scheme: Mobile Homes

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether park homes are to be eligible for assistance under the Green Deal. [83102]

Gregory Barker: Park homes will be able to apply for the Green Deal as long as they fulfil the same criteria as other types of eligible buildings. For example, every property will require an EPC assessment before a Green Deal charge is agreed and the home must be supplied by a licensed electricity supplier.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of shale gas extraction on future energy prices. [81856]

Charles Hendry: The global prospects for the extraction of shale gas formed part of the consideration in compiling DECC's long run fossil fuel price projections. The projections were developed using estimated oil-linked prices (this gas/oil price link is expected to weaken in

the longer term) and estimates of the long run cost of extracting and supplying gas to the UK. This latter cost takes into account the cost of exploiting reserves of conventional and unconventional gas resources including shale gas.

The growth in unconventional gas production in the US has already, in conjunction with other factors, helped to depress global spot wholesale gas prices by reducing the US need for LNG imports. The prospects for unconventional gas production outside North America are uncertain. Most analysts suggest that a range of factors make unconventional gas more costly and harder to access in regions outside North America. Moreover, there is a greater abundance of conventional gas in many regions outside North America which would reduce the need for unconventional gas production in these regions.

For the UK, there are considerable uncertainties surrounding both the extent to which shale gas-in-place is geologically, commercially and environmentally viable to extract and the potential impact on gas prices. Cuadrilla Resources, currently the only company conducting shale gas exploration in the UK, have recently estimated that there are substantial quantities of gas-in-place within the shale deposits under their exploration licences in Lancashire. However, the size of the resource is not yet established, and the commercial potential is subject to additional uncertainty. Given the uncertainties, DECC has not yet made an assessment of this or other estimates of UK shale on gas prices.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any impact assessment his Department has undertaken on the proposed reductions to solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs considered loss of income to solar photovoltaic manufacturing and installation companies. [82241]

Gregory Barker: DECC does not make estimates of the income of companies in the solar photovoltaic (PV) sector. The Impact Assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV), available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

sets out the impact of our proposals on FITs support, generation and jobs.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made on the number of jobs that would be lost as a result of the proposed reduction in solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs. [82243]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full time equivalent (FTE) jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment.

In the Impact Assessment supporting the consultation on FITs for solar PV:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

we estimate that 1,000 to 10,000 gross FTE could be created in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under our proposals. This estimate relates to solar PV installations only. Furthermore, it should be noted that current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched. Any jobs that are affected are dependent on rates of support above those the scheme was intended to provide, and should not therefore be considered sustainable.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on investment in the solar photovoltaic industry of the proposed reduction in solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs. [82244]

Gregory Barker: An Impact Assessment has been published to support the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics (PV). This sets out the impact on generation of the changes proposed in the consultation. The Impact Assessment is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which sites eligible under the solar photovoltaic feed-in tariff scheme *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have visited in the last 12 months. [82250]

Gregory Barker: Ministers at DECC have been on a number of visits to sites across the UK in the last 12 months, some of which may have installed microgeneration technologies. However, we do not keep records of whether each of the sites visited was eligible for the FIT.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what legal advice he sought prior to his decision to reduce the feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaics. [83453]

Gregory Barker: Legal advice obtained by the Department is confidential and the subject of legal professional privilege.

Solar Power: Social Rented Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to support solar photovoltaic schemes installed in social housing. [83326]

Gregory Barker: The recently published consultation on Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) states that the Government are considering whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to be able to fully benefit from FITs. The forthcoming second consultation on the comprehensive review will seek views on the scope of a definition of "community scheme" and how it will be applied including in regard to social housing.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet Aung San Suu Kyi to discuss democracy in Burma. [83092]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), discussed recent developments in Burma with Aung San Suu Kyi by telephone on 20 November 2011, following the National League for Democracy's decision to re-register as a political party. They discussed prospects for further reform as well as the UK Government's concerns over continued human rights abuses, including the continued detention of political prisoners and the ongoing conflict in ethnic minority border areas.

The Secretary of State for International Development, the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), raised similar points during his meetings with Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the Burmese Government, including the President, during his visit to Burma on 15-17 November.

Cluster Munitions

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterpart on the international prohibition on the deployment of cluster bombs; if the UK will maintain support for the prohibition in its current form; and if he will make a statement. [83243]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to ridding the world of cluster munitions. We believe the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) is a crucial mechanism for achieving this goal and will maintain our support for prohibition in its current form. We continue to use all appropriate bilateral and multilateral opportunities to press for countries to join the CCM and give up cluster munitions. In this regard, Ministers and officials regularly raise the CCM with non-states parties.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Egyptian authorities on the treatment of democracy protestors in *(a)* Cairo and *(b)* Egypt. [83091]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), issued a statement on 23 November 2011 expressing his deep concern about the unacceptable violence and loss of life which has taken place around Tahrir Square in Cairo and in other parts of Egypt, and his concern about reports of dangerous forms of gas being used against protesters as well as live ammunition. The Secretary of State called on the Egyptian authorities to respect the right of peaceful protest and immediately cease the use of violence against protestors, including live fire and the use of gas, and for all those who are responsible for such disproportionate violence against peaceful protesters to be held to account.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is considering as the UK's contribution to the international response to Iran's nuclear programme. [83093]

Alistair Burt: On 21 November, the Government decided to sever all links with Iranian banks. The US and Canada announced further restrictions against Iran at the same time.

These measures followed the International Atomic Energy Agency's November report about the Iranian nuclear programme and its military dimensions. The UK, along with other members of the international community, supported a resolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board on 18 November expressing increasing concern about the Iranian programme. Over the coming days, we shall be working closely with our EU partners to tighten EU sanctions on the nuclear programme and urging others to take similar robust action. Iran should not doubt the resolve of the international community to address the threat posed by its nuclear ambitions.

Iran: Prisoners

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Iranian counterpart on the detention of Pastor Nadarkhani; and if he will make a statement. [83085]

Alistair Burt: We remain deeply concerned about the sentence handed out to Pastor Nadarkhani. In a statement on 28 September 2011, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), deplored reports that Pastor Nadarkhani was being forced to recant his faith or face the death penalty. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have raised Pastor Nadarkhani's case with the Iranian authorities on a number of occasions, seeking further information about Pastor Nadarkhani's situation, and assurances he will not be punished for his religious beliefs. In addition, we have taken co-ordinated action with our EU partners to address Iran's appalling human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for abuses, including Government ministers and members of the judiciary. We and our EU partners will continue to raise Pastor Nadarkhani's case and to insist that his sentence is overturned.

Libya: War Crimes

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the National Transitional Council in Libya to hand over Saif al-Islam to the International Criminal Court. [82885]

Alistair Burt: The Government strongly support the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the co-operation between the ICC and Libya's Transitional Government regarding arrangements for the prosecution of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi. During his visit to Libya on 22-23 November, the ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo said that it was Libya's right to try Saif al-Islam Gaddafi provided that the judicial process meets certain standards. Ocampo said that the current intention was to consider appropriate steps to sequence potential ICC and Libyan action, and the ICC would enter into discussion with the Libyan authorities over the "modalities of the prosecution". We look forward to the outcome of these discussions.

Saudi Arabia: GPT

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any discussion has taken place between the Saudi government and *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department or of the Ministry of Defence about allegations of bribery against GPT, the GPT contract or the potential investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into GPT. [83174]

Alistair Burt: We have not held any discussions at ministerial level with Saudi Government about allegations of bribery against GPT. The matter has, however, been discussed between my officials and representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a number of occasions.

Any questions in relation to the Ministry of Defence are a matter for the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond).

TREASURY

Capital Allowances

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the effective financial benefit was received by each business sector due to capital investment allowance claims in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [83170]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will raise the rate of income tax relief on the Enterprise Investment Scheme to the marginal rate. [83249]

Mr Gauke: The rate of income tax relief for the Enterprise Investment Scheme was raised from 20% to 30% at Budget 2011, for investments made from April 2011.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will withdraw his plan to reduce the annual investment allowance from £100,000 to £25,000 from April 2012. [83250]

Mr Gauke: The Government currently have no plans to withdraw the reduction in the annual investment allowance from April 2012.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will withdraw his plans to reduce capital allowances. [83251]

Mr Gauke: The Government currently have no plans to withdraw the reduction in capital allowances rates from April 2012.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 26 October 2011 regarding a constituent, reference 1/95574/2011. [83059]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reform research and development tax credits by providing businesses with a credit against cost; and if he will make a statement. [83252]

Mr Gauke: The Government have recently consulted on the case for introducing an 'above the line' R and D tax credit and is currently considering the responses.

PRIME MINISTER

Rendition

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Prime Minister what his policy is on the involvement of the UK's security and intelligence agencies in rendition operations; and if he will make a statement. [83411]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 25WS.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the future *(a)* number and *(b)* location of accident and emergency major trauma units. [83074]

Mr Simon Burns: A regional trauma network is comprised of a major trauma centre and 8-12 trauma units. 22 major trauma centres (MTCs) have been proposed, with locations determined by national health service strategic health authorities. The major trauma units will be located in adjacent trusts.

There is a clear clinical distinction between major trauma (multiple injuries, several organ systems/body parts, small numbers of patients) and general trauma (often single injuries, greater numbers of patients). The principle of regional trauma networks is to create inclusive networks that will deliver patients with life threatening (multiple) injuries to the most appropriate MTC with the right specialists and equipment to provide definitive care by a multidisciplinary group of professionals.

Patients arriving in the trauma units will include: patients who are considered to have injuries not requiring the expertise of the MTC; those critically injured patients

for whom direct transfer to the MTC could adversely affect outcome, for example airway obstruction or catastrophic haemorrhage; and injured patients who are not critically unstable but who will benefit from specialist care (e.g. spine, pelvis, facial trauma).

The MTCs in these networks will improve the care of patients who suffer major trauma in the region concerned by:

ensuring that all seriously injured patients are assessed on arrival in the Emergency Department by a consultant 24 hours a day, seven days a week;

improving the speed with which patients receive time critical investigations such as computed tomography scanning and access to interventional radiology services for haemorrhage; and

on site access to all necessary specialties reducing the need for secondary transfers of critically ill patients.

Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 999 calls in the East Midlands were not actioned until after NHS Direct had rung the caller back, in the last month. [83072]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available.

East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS) receive nearly 1,000 emergency calls each day. All of these are actioned immediately by control operators asking callers a series of medical questions, the answers to which determine how the call will be managed. This can take the form of EMAS providing medical advice over the phone, responding as a solo paramedic or conventional ambulance or, in the case of low level medical problems, forwarding the call to NHS Direct for appropriate advice to be provided.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time was between a 999 call being made and an ambulance being dispatched in the East Midlands in the last month. [83073]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available. Data for response times and category of call for East Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust for 2010-11 is available in the following table:

	Category A calls			*Category B calls*		
	Total number of incidents with emergency response (Thousand)	*Response within eight minutes (%)*	*Total number of incidents with ambulance vehicle arriving (Thousand)*	*Response within 19 minutes (%)*	*Total number of incidents with ambulance vehicle arriving (Thousand)*	*Response within 19 minutes (%)*
Ambulance service						
East Midlands	205.2	72.4	205.0	93.5	247.1	88.3

Source: The Information Centre for health and social care

Freedom of Information

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on transition programme, when his Department's internal review of the Freedom of Information request was concluded; and when he plans to provide the information sought in the original question. [83063]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department concluded its internal review about the transition programme Freedom of Information request on 2 March 2011 and informed the right hon. Member of the outcome on this date.

The Department is currently considering a Decision Notice from the Information Commissioner about this issue.

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure local health organisations use the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Commissioning Guide for Insulin Pump Therapy to help them plan and deliver insulin pump therapy services; and what steps he is taking to ensure such organisations are taking steps to meet the standard benchmark rate set out in that guide for the uptake of insulin pump therapy by 12 per cent. of people with type 1 diabetes. [82560]

Paul Burstow: It is for the national health service locally to determine its response to this guidance, but the Department included a specific reference to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance for insulin pump therapy services in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12 to encourage local health organisations to use the guidance to help them plan and deliver services. The Framework states that NHS commissioners and providers should do more to ensure insulin pumps are available for those people with diabetes that meet the criteria recommended by NICE. The NHS Technology Adoption Centre has also published guidance to support NHS organisations in the adoption of these devices.

General Practitioners: Telephone Numbers

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of GP surgeries using 08 telephone numbers. [83069]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no estimate of the number of general practitioner surgeries in England that use telephone numbers that begin with 08.

The Department issued guidance and directions to national health service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers which charge the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the Directions and guidance.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the steps which *(a)* can be taken by primary care trusts and *(b)* could be taken by the proposed Health and Wellbeing Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups to discourage GP practices from using 08 telephone numbers. [83070]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department issued guidance and Directions to national health service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers which charge, the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the national health service. These Directions suggest a number of steps to be taken to ensure general practice surgeries are compliant, such as: varying the terms of the contract; renegotiating the terms of the contract; terminating the contract; or introducing a system where the NHS body calls the patient back at its own expense.

Gurkhas: Aldershot

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department have had with Rushmoor borough council on funding to help Gurkha immigrants settle in Aldershot. [81948]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has had no discussions with Rushmoor borough council on funding to help ex-Gurkhas who have settled in Aldershot. The Department of Health is represented on the Gurkha Settlement Cross Government Working Group of officials. Mr Andrew Lloyd, the chief executive of Rushmoor borough council, attended a meeting of that group on 23 May 2011. A Gurkha Support Fund of £1.5 million has now been established and will be administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government, with funding contributions from the Ministry of Defence and the Home Office.

Health Professions: Training

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce a statutory training regime for healthcare assistants. [82612]

Anne Milton: We have commissioned Skills for Health and Skills for Care to develop a code of conduct and minimum training standards for healthcare support workers and adult social care workers in England.

We will receive their final report and recommendations by September 2012. The Government's expectation is that the new code and training standards would be used in conjunction with voluntary registers as part of the standards for inclusion on the register.

Health and Wellbeing

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has made for creation of health and wellbeing boards in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham. [82744]

Paul Burstow: The Health and Social Care Bill establishes health and wellbeing boards on a statutory basis in every upper-tier local authority in England. They will operate in shadow form from April 2012, and take on their statutory functions from April 2013.

Birmingham, Newcastle, Wakefield, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Coventry, Bristol, Sheffield, Bradford, Leicester and Nottingham have signed up as early implementers of health and wellbeing boards. It is for these cities, working in partnership to put in place their own arrangements for developing health and wellbeing boards.

The Department, together with the Local Government Group and other stakeholders, has set up a National Learning Network with early implementer health and wellbeing boards to ensure that boards develop an understanding of how they can be more effective in increasing accountability, improving services and improving the health and wellbeing of local communities.

Homeless Link: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the Homeless Link received from his Department in 2010-11; how much it will receive in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [83101]

Paul Burstow: The Department has allocated the following funding to Homeless Link:

2010-11: £68,641

2011-12: £25,000.

It should be noted that funding for 2011-12 represents the latest allocations and additional funding could be allocated in the remaining months of the financial year.

Homeless Link has received funding under the Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development fund and for its role in supporting the delivery of the commitment in the vision to end rough sleeping report from the Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average in-patient length of stay was for *(a)* diabetes, *(b)* cancer, *(c)* dementia and *(d)* musculoskeletal conditions in (i) Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, (ii) East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, (iii) Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, (iv) Medway NHS Foundation Trust and (v) England in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11; [81860]

(2) how many in-patient episodes for *(a)* diabetes, *(b)* cancer, *(c)* dementia and *(d)* musculoskeletal conditions there were in (i) Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, (ii) East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, (iii) Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, (iv) Medway NHS Foundation Trust and (v) England in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11; [81861]

(3) what the average in-patient length of stay for *(a)* diabetes, *(b)* cancer, *(c)* dementia and *(d)* musculoskeletal conditions was in (i) Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, (ii) East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, (iii) Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, (iv) Medway NHS Foundation Trust and (v) England in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11. [82617]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is shown in the following table. These data show a count of finished consultant episodes along with mean and median length

of stay (days) where there was a primary diagnosis of *(a)* diabetes, *(b)* cancer, *(c)* dementia for each of the four trusts in each of the years specified.

Data on musculoskeletal conditions have not been provided. The diagnosis 'musculoskeletal condition' is a broad term and accurate data cannot be derived from such a broad range of categories.

Number of finished consultant episodes[1] (FCEs) and average length of stay[2] for patients with primary diagnosis codes[3] for (i) diabetes, (ii) cancer benign and malignant neoplasm, (iii) dementia and (iv) musculoskeletal conditions in Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and England[4], between 2008-09 and 2010-11[5]

		2008-09			2009-10			2010-11		
Primary diagnosis	*Trust*	*FCEs*	*Mean length of stay*	*Median length of stay*	*FCEs*	*Mean length of stay*	*Median length of stay*	*FCEs*	*Mean length of stay*	*Median length of stay*
Diabetes	England	90,532	4.6	2	95,531	4.3	2	102,715	4.0	2
	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	336	4.2	2	357	4.2	2	370	5.0	2
	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	442	5.7	2	537	5.3	2	565	6.2	2
	East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	772	3.8	2	754	4.1	2	894	4.1	2
	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	512	5.9	2	534	5.1	2	473	4.7	2
Cancer benign and malignant neoplasm	England	1,649,678	6.1	3	1,701,525	6.0	3	1,739,904	5.7	2
	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	3,532	6.5	3	3,853	6.4	3	5,794	6.3	2
	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	3,906	6.2	3	4,531	5.8	2	5,108	6.1	3
	East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	20,551	5.7	3	21,484	5.3	2	20,426	4.7	2
	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	9,114	5.4	2	8,630	5.6	2	5,897	6.3	3
Dementia	England	37,973	38.4	11	40,924	37.5	10	43,414	32.8	9
	Dartford And Gravesham NHS Trust	80	14.4	7.5	134	14.8	5	335	14.3	4
	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	209	14.3	5	227	14.5	4	251	14.4	6
	East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	266	9.8	3	258	8.8	3	249	6.6	2
	Maidstone And Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	91	17.3	9	110	15.8	6.5	112	14.9	7

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
[2] Length of stay (duration of episode)/Length of stay (duration of spell)
The difference in days between the admission date and the episode end date (duration of episode) or discharge date (duration of spell), where both dates are given. LOS is based on hospital stays and only applies to ordinary admissions not day cases (unless otherwise stated). Information relating to LOS, including discharge method/destination, diagnoses and any operative procedures, is based only on the final episode of the spell.
[3] Primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
The following ICD-10 codes have been used:
Diabetes
E10 Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
E11 Non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
E12 Malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus
E13 Other specified diabetes mellitus
E14 Unspecified diabetes mellitus
O24 Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy
P70.2 Neonatal diabetes mellitus
Cancer
C00-C97 Malignant neoplasms
D00-D09 In situ neoplasms
D10-D36 Benign neoplasms
D37-D48 Neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behaviour
Dementia
F00 Dementia in Alzheimer disease
F01 Vascular dementia
F02 Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere
F03 Unspecified dementia
F04 Organic amnesic syndrome, not induced by alcohol and other psychoactive substances
F05 Delirium, not induced by alcohol and other psychoactive substances
F06 Other mental disorders due to brain damage and dysfunction and to physical disease
F07 Personality and behavioural disorders due to brain disease, damage and dysfunction
F09 Unspecified organic or symptomatic mental disorder
G30 Alzheimer's disease
It should be noted:
F02 Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere would generally be recorded in one of the secondary positions, therefore the figures provided may not be fully representative of the actual number of FCEs.
Musculoskeletal conditions
Clinical coding advice states:
The term "musculoskeletal conditions" is broad and a definitive list of musculoskeletal conditions cannot be provided. "Musculoskeletal conditions" means 'pertaining to the skeleton and muscles' and these disorders can be found throughout the chapters in ICD-10.
[4] Hospital Provider
A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or PCT). Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded treatment centres, these data are quoted separately. In these cases, '-X' is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the treatment centres. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of data flows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts may be lower than true figures.
Trust codes:
RN7-X: Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
RPA: Medway NHS Foundation Trust
RW: East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust
RWF: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
[5] Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Please note that these data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

Obesity

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the Government's expert advisory group on obesity has been disbanded. [83068]

Anne Milton: The Government have made public health a priority and as such we are bringing in a new approach to obesity, as set out in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Call to action on obesity in England" which was published in October. In light of our new approach we are bringing in new advisory arrangements for obesity. A copy of the "Call to action" has already been placed in the Library.

Dr Susan Jebb, who chaired the expert advisory group, is continuing in her role as science adviser to the Department on obesity. There will be a new National Ambition Review Group on obesity, which will bring together key partners and experts from the academic and scientific field. Public Health England will also play a crucial role in providing robust intelligence and evidence to local areas.

Skin Cancer

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether, following the pilot of the collection of data on metastatic breast cancer, he plans to collect data on metastatic melanoma; [82613]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of clinical nurse specialists for metastatic melanoma; and if he will make a statement; [82637]

(3) how many *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency admissions were recorded for patients with a diagnosis of (i) skin cancer and (ii) metastatic melanoma by primary care trust in the latest year for which figures are available. [82639]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, made the collection of data on secondary breast cancer a priority for 2011. Pilot projects are already under way and we anticipate that routine collection will begin in April 2012. It is our intention that the learning from this exercise will be applied to the collection of information on other forms of metastatic cancer in the future. No decisions regarding the next steps for metastatic data collection have been made at this time and are unlikely to be made until the routine collection of secondary-breast cancer data has been properly established and quality assured.

The "2010 Census of Cancer Specialist Nurses (CNSs) in England" reported that there were 2,164.2 whole time equivalents CNSs in the 28 English cancer networks of which 119.68 worked in skin cancer and in the 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey 75% of skin cancer patients reported having a CNS.

The survey also showed that cancer patients who have support from a CNS have an overall better experience of care. We expect the national health service to consider this in developing their policies to improve patient experience. To support the NHS to develop the CNS work force, the strategy sets out our intention to build the evidence base for the benefits and-costs savings that CNSs can offer. This follows an independent report we published in December 2010 that showed that, in many scenarios, the costs of additional support roles are likely to be outweighed by the savings that can be achieved.

Data concerning the number of elective and emergency admissions for patients with a diagnosis of skin cancer or metastatic melanoma in the latest year for which figures are available by primary care trust have been placed in the Library. These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion. To protect patient confidentiality figures between one and five have been replaced with an asterisk, and where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total the next smallest has been replaced.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK aid to developing countries is intended to improve the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. [80283]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK increased its direct aid allocation to biodiversity from £37.6 million in 2008 to £39.4 million in 2009. The objective of ensuring environmental protection is now mainstreamed throughout DFID's programmes. The UK has further also allocated £2.6 million overseas development aid (ODA) this year towards supporting the Darwin initiative. More widely, we will increase our support to environmental initiatives as the International Climate Fund (2011-15) is implemented through programmes in areas such as forestry, climate-resistant agriculture and water resource management.

Through the ICF, the UK will help to protect the world's forests and the livelihoods of 1.2 billion people who depend on them. The proportion of ICF spend currently allocated to forestry is £600 million of the total £2.9 billion which reflects how the UK prioritises the importance of ecosystems.

Developing Countries: Remittances

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of diasporas to international development through remittances and diaspora volunteering. [83105]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: World Bank data shows that 200 million people live outside their country of origin. In 2010 international migrants remitted $325 billion (three times the level of overseas development assistance). A report "Making Migration Work for Development" (2010) by the DFID-funded Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, housed at the University of Sussex, shows that remittances are a relatively stable source of foreign exchange earnings and can boost growth in developing countries by financing investment, consumption and production growth. A joint study by DFID and the United Nations, "Impact of Remittances on Poverty" (2009), found that a 10% rise in remittances reduced the poverty headcount ratio by 3.9% in developing countries where remittances account for more than 5.0% of gross domestic product.

Between 2008 and 2011 DFID provided support to diaspora volunteering organisations to help them increase the impact of their work in the countries and continents of heritage of diaspora communities. In 2011 DFID completed a project completion review which concluded that the project had achieved its outcome in establishing a functioning body to provide ongoing support for diaspora volunteering groups and through successfully supporting 15 diaspora organisations to provide high quality volunteering opportunities.

Diaspora Communities

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the mechanism and framework within his Department is for consultation of diaspora communities on international development matters. [83106]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Ministers and Department for International Development (DFID) officials regularly meet and consult with diaspora organisations both directly and through networks. In the past three weeks alone, there have been meetings and events with Somali diaspora groups in Cardiff and the Pakistani diaspora

in Glasgow as well as a roundtable discussion on "Harnessing the diaspora to drive investment enterprise development and jobs in Africa".

The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien) spoke at the launch of Africa-UK in February 2011, a new national initiative dedicated to enhancing the contribution of the diaspora to Africa's development. DFID also works with Comic Relief through the Common Ground Initiative to increase support to small and diaspora organisations, creating real and sustainable change in some of the poorest and most disadvantaged communities in Africa.

Horn of Africa

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. [83103]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Horn of Africa is facing the most serious humanitarian situation in the world today. Across the region, more than 13 million people require emergency assistance. The British Government was one of the first to step forward with significant funds and we continue to be at the forefront of the world's response, as the second largest bilateral donor to the crisis behind the US.

The UK is supporting a range of interventions to alleviate the immediate crisis, and our support is already showing results. For example, in Ethiopia in June and July we provided food to 2.4 million people. UK support has also provided 247,000 people in Somalia with food and nutritional assistance, and almost 900,000 children have been vaccinated against measles—eventually over 1.3 million children will be vaccinated.

Longer term solutions are vital to help communities and agricultural systems become more resilient. The UK is providing small farmers in Somalia with seeds, fertilisers and animal health assistance, and helping pastoralist communities in Ethiopia to protect their assets. We are also supporting the African Union's programme to boost agricultural productivity and improve food security.

JUSTICE

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82540]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: During the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 (to end October), Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Internal Audit and Assurance completed *(a)* 26 internal audits in MOJ core and *(b)* 381 internal audits in the arm's length bodies for which the Department is responsible. Reports are published internally.

Note:

The figures reported above include the full years' audits completed in 2010-11.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82569]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: 100 official photographs have been taken—in 10 sessions—since May 2010. Of these, 85 were of *(a)* Ministers and 15 of *(b)* senior officials.

Nine members of the MOJ can undertake photography but it forms a minor part of each of their roles.

Detainee Inquiry

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made by Sir Peter Gibson's Detainee Inquiry. [83060]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 100WS. The Detainee Inquiry remains in a preparatory phase pending the outcome of related police investigations.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of employment and support allowance appeals lodged in each quarter from the second quarter 2010-11 to date were determined *(a)* within six weeks, *(b)* between six and 12 weeks, *(c)* between 12 and 18 weeks, *(d)* between 18 and 26 weeks and *(e)* more than 26 weeks after submission. [82676]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the time taken from the date of a disputed Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) decision for employment and support allowance (ESA) being lodged with DWP to the date of clearance by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

Number of appeals[1]

	Fewer than 6 weeks	*6 to 12 weeks*	*12 to 18 weeks*	*18 to 26 weeks*	*More than 26 weeks*
2010-11					
Quarter 3	410	4,700	8,700	8,600	23,400
Quarter 4	410	4,400	8,900	9,100	29,600
2011-12					
Quarter 1	420	5,000	7,000	7,200	31,200
Quarter 2	380	4,000	7,600	9,500	29,400

[1] This case data has been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 unless the numbers are too low for this rounding protocol to apply.

ESA appeals take an average of 8.13 weeks from the date of lodgement with DWP to arrive at the tribunal, as at September 2011 (the latest period for which data is available).

The introduction of ESA, together with other changes in the welfare system, has led to significant increases in appeals. HMCTS has taken strong measures to increase

capacity and 60% more social security and child support appeals were cleared in September 2011 compared to September 2009. In each of the 11 months to September 2011 more ESA and incapacity benefit appeals were disposed of than received.

Employment Tribunals Service: Fees

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to introduce fees for workplace tribunals. [83536]

Mr Djanogly: The Government will be consulting on proposals to introduce fees into the employment tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunal shortly. The consultation document will set out the options for proposed fee structures and the indicative fee levels which might be applied. No decision will be made on the level of fees to be paid until that consultation has been completed.

Metal Theft

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions have been brought under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in cases involving metal theft. [83264]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify from these centrally held data those proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 involving metal theft.

SCOTLAND

Work Programme

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the impact in Scotland of the proposal to introduce compulsory community work programmes for those who have completed the Work programme. [83179]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in contact with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), on a range of issues relating to the Government's welfare reform agenda, including the Work programme.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers Licensing Reform

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of new travel businesses which will be required to apply for an ATOL certificate under her Department's proposals. [74095]

Mrs Villiers: The Government consulted on proposed reforms to the Air Travel Organisers Licensing (ATOL) scheme between 23 June and 15 September 2011.

The Impact Assessment that formed part of the consultation estimated that an additional 600 businesses would be brought into the ATOL scheme, if the proposed reforms were implemented.

Under the proposed reforms, all these businesses would be required to provide an ATOL certificate to consumers on purchasing an ATOL protected holiday or flight as a means of improving clarity to consumers about their entitlement to protection under the ATOL scheme. All existing ATOL licensed businesses would also have this obligation.

Aviation: Security

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish all correspondence between her Department and *(a)* airport operators and *(b)* airline companies concerning border checks in the last 12 months. [81166]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Department has no record of correspondence with airport operators or airline companies on border checks in the last 12 months. Airport operators and airlines, however, have raised passenger facilitation aspects of border controls with Ministers and departmental officials on a number of occasions over the last 12 months, not least in the South East Airports Taskforce, which I chaired, and in the regular Facilitation Stakeholders Forum, which officials chair.

Chiltern Railways

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to determine the application for the Chiltern Railways (Bicester to Oxford Improvements) Order. [80744]

Mike Penning: The Inspector who conducted an inquiry into the proposals in this application endorsed them in most respects but recommended that the Order should not be made. This was because of the likely lack of a licence from Natural England to carry out works which would affect the habitat of bats. Following the close of the inquiry we understand that the applicants (the Chiltern Railway Company Limited) and Natural England have been in discussions with a view to agreeing measures to protect bats and great crested newts which would also be affected by the proposals. On 15 November officials wrote to the applicants to ask what progress has been made. Once we know the outcome of those discussions, we will make every effort to conclude the statutory processes as soon as is reasonably possible.

Growing Places Fund

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Ministers in her Department made public mention of *(a)* the Growing Places Fund, *(b)* the money which was subsequently to be allocated to the Growing Places Fund and *(c)* the stated intention of the Growing Places Fund prior to the official announcement of the policy on 7 November 2011. [82510]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), announced on 18 September plans to establish a new £500 million Growing Places Fund to support local infrastructure projects which unlock housing and economic growth.

I refer the right hon. Member to the statement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 445, and to the answer by the Minister for Decentralisation and Cities, the right hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 124W. The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), also made reference to the Fund at the Transport Select Committee on 19 October 2011.

The announcement of 7 November 2011 was the publication of the Fund's prospectus and the indicative allocations to individual Local Enterprise Partnerships.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Pensions of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 193, how many homes are affected by the recent decision to change the cold weather station in Northern Ireland from inland Ballykelly to Magilligan on the coast; and what estimate he has made of the number of homes that are covered by this station situated further inland than the cold weather station itself. [83242]

Steve Webb: Decisions on the weather stations to use in the Northern Ireland Cold Weather Payment Scheme are for the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland. However I am aware that the Cold Weather Payment scheme in Northern Ireland was reviewed this summer following the closure of the Ballykelly weather station.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants of contributory employment and support allowance in the Work Related Activity Group whose benefit is time-limited, and who are then subsequently placed into the Support Group following later assessments but do not meet the income related conditions and have not accrued further years of contribution since they were time-limited, will receive contributory employment and support allowance. [83075]

Chris Grayling: People could re-qualify for contributory employment and support allowance if they are subsequently placed in the Support Group after their contributory benefit has been time limited where they received contributory employment and support allowance for at least one day in the tax year prior to the benefit year in which the new claim is made. This is in addition to where claimants leave benefit for work and accrue the necessary contributions, or remain or become entitled to income-related employment and support allowance.

Work Programme: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* COSLA, *(c)* the Scottish Trade Unions Congress and *(d)* Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations on his plans to introduce compulsory community work programmes for those who have completed the Work programme. [83178]

Chris Grayling: Even with the improved support offered in the Work programme some jobseeker's allowance claimants may reach the end of their time on the programme and remain on benefits and looking for work.

To understand how best to support very long-term unemployed jobseeker's allowance claimants who may reach the end of the Work programme from 2013, the Department is running a small-scale trial in four Jobcentre Plus districts in England to test whether, with an increased level of support and opportunities to gain work experience, longer-term claimants have greater success in finding and staying in employment.

The evaluation of the trials as well as future discussions with key stakeholders, including many listed, will help influence the design and delivery of the national programme in 2013.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects of changes in private sector rents on local housing allowance in each region since May 2011. [83246]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change has been in local housing allowance caseload made up by people in employment *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each local authority area since May 2010. [83247]

Steve Webb: The following table sets out the number of housing benefit (local housing allowance) claimants in Great Britain in employment and not in receipt of income support, jobseekers allowance (income-based), employment and support allowance (income based), or pension credit (guaranteed credit) in May 2010 and in August 2011.

LHA tenants	*Number/percentage*
May 2010	272,970
August 2011	388,030
Percentage difference	42

Notes:
1. A very small proportion of individuals whose housing benefit claim has been passported (claimants in receipt of one of the benefits listed in the answer above) may also be earning some income from employment. However, the employment status of these individuals is not collected.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. Local housing allowance tenants may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008.
4. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
5. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems.
7. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
8. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and August 2011 is the latest.
9. Local housing allowance was introduced in the private deregulated sector from April 2008.

The local housing allowance (LHA) case load by local authority area is currently unavailable. We are aware of an inconsistency in the data which affects the distinction between LHA and non-LHA private sector tenants. We are working towards resolving this issue. It affects some local authority areas, but makes little difference at GB level.

Jobcentre Plus

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local entrepreneur mentors have been recruited by Jobcentre Plus *(a)* in each local authority area and *(b)* by gender since May 2011. [78579]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus does not recruit local entrepreneur mentors.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of contribution-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA) were deemed ineligible for income-based JSA when their contribution-based JSA ended; how many such claimants paid a national insurance contribution within one month of their income-based JSA claim being disallowed; and how many of those initially deemed ineligible received income-based JSA within six months of their initial income-based JSA claim being disallowed, for each month in the last two years. [83079]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Pensioners: Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each region were receiving housing benefit in October 2011; and how he proposes that housing benefit will be paid after it is no longer administered by local authorities. [83244]

Steve Webb: These are the latest data available:

Housing benefit recipients aged 65 and over, by region—August 2011

	Number
Great Britain	1,279,120
North East	78,920
North West	157,430
Yorkshire and Humberside	121,970
East Midlands	86,850
West Midlands	120,020
East of England	108,270
London	167,890
South East	142,070
South West	99,750
Wales	62,120
Scotland	133,820

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing benefit will be replaced by a new element of pension credit, the housing credit, to provide support for pensioners with their rent. The housing credit will broadly follow the current rules that apply in housing benefit, including payment arrangements.

Youth Unemployment

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects youth unemployment in Walsall North constituency to be substantially reduced; and if he will make a statement. [83061]

Chris Grayling: The most recent forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility is for unemployment to level out and then fall from the second half of 2012. There is no separate forecast for youth unemployment but this would be expected to follow a broadly similar trend.

The Government are investing in policies to support young people to remain active in their job search and help them to engage in real work with employers. This is supported by access to work experience opportunities and referrals to apprenticeships and sector-based work academies.

This help ensures that most young people flow off jobseeker's allowance quickly. Nationally, of young people who make a claim for JSA, 60% leave within the first three months and 80% within six months. Those who need more intensive support or who become long-term unemployed are referred to the Work Programme at three or nine months.

Universal Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the costs that will be incurred by local authorities with contracts for benefit delivery where those contracts extend beyond the introduction of universal credit. [83245]

Chris Grayling: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is working with Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the devolved Administrations and the local authority associations to understand the full impact of the introduction of universal credit and housing costs for pensioners on current local authority benefit services.

The specific impact on the contractual arrangements of the local authorities and associated costs will only be understood when the detailed migration schedule of housing benefit claimants to universal credit (working age) and pension credit (pension age) is defined.

Work Capability Assessments

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the contract under which work capability assessments are conducted will expire. [83076]

Chris Grayling: The current Medical Services Contract will expire on 31 August 2015 unless the Department takes up the option to extend to a maximum of 31 August 2017.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration in *(a)* days and *(b)* weeks is of the employment and support allowance assessment phase for incapacity benefit claimants who are being reassessed. [83077]

Chris Grayling: Claimants who are converted to employment and support allowance as part of the incapacity benefit reassessment process do not have an assessment phase, they receive the relevant component from the first day of conversion.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 November 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Aviation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what assessment he has made of the implications for the aviation sector in Northern Ireland of the proposed sale by Lufthansa of British Midland to International Airlines Group; [83369]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the implications for the aviation sector in Northern Ireland of the proposed sale by Lufthansa of British Midland to International Airlines Group. [83370]

Mr Paterson: I met Mr Willie Walsh, the chief executive of International Airlines Group (IAG) on 16 November and spoke to him again on 25 November. We discussed the opportunities that Northern Ireland airports can offer airlines and the needs of Northern Ireland business and leisure passengers. IAG is still deciding whether to proceed and other offers may also be made, after which regulatory approvals may be required. If IAG purchased the airline it would have to make decisions on routes. Mr Walsh explained that the BA business model involved a mix of short-haul and long-haul flights, and in particular the maintenance of a short-haul network into Heathrow.

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), has been in contact with the Minister for Aviation and Northern Ireland Ministers over the past few weeks and the matter has been brought to the attention of the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening).

Corporation Tax

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* other Ministerial colleagues on the devolution of powers over the rate of corporation tax to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [82759]

Mr Swire: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), and I have had a number of discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke), and other colleagues on the rebalancing of the Northern Ireland economy, including around the potential benefits of the devolution of powers over the rate of corporation tax to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and I will meet regularly with Northern Ireland ministerial colleagues on a Working Group on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy, with their first meeting on 15 December.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82539]

Mr Paterson: During the 2010-11 financial year, four internal audits took place in my Department and two took place in the non-departmental public bodies for which my Department is responsible.

The 2011-12 internal audit plan includes four audits within my Department and two in the non-departmental public bodies for which my Department is responsible.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82568]

Mr Paterson: One set of photographs has been taken of *(a)* myself and *(b)* the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), for official use at a cost of £204.

No official photographs have been taken of senior officials for use in Government publications.

No staff are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties. Staff with photography skills have occasionally volunteered to do so when a need has arisen.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83010]

Mr Paterson: Since 12 April 2010, my Department has produced 10,000 leaflets at a total cost of £700 to advertise House and Garden tours of Hillsborough Castle as part of the Department's commitment to maximise the use of Hillsborough Castle for the benefit of the wider community. These costs included design costs to Lynne Bennington (£195) and publishing costs to The Northern Whig (£505). The Department also published the departmental resource accounts through The Stationery Office at a cost of £1,745.

HMP Maghaberry

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners in HMP Maghaberry are being held on terrorist-related offences; and what proportion are identified as *(a)* Republican and *(b)* Loyalist. [82609]

Mr Swire: There are currently a total of 34 prisoners housed in separated republican accommodation in Roe House at HMP Maghaberry, and a total of 14 prisoners housed in separated loyalist accommodation in Bush House.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many internal audits have taken place in his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82538]

David Mundell: During the last 12 months, three internal audits have taken place in the Scotland Office.

Income Tax

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Scottish Government on the inclusion of a "no detriment" mechanism in the proposed Scottish income tax. [83065]

David Mundell: The Command Paper, published alongside the Scotland Bill, set out a principle of "no detriment" for operating a shared income tax base.

This means that the Scottish budget will be compensated for changes to the UK tax base which impact (either positively or negatively) the Scottish tax base.

I have ongoing discussions with HMT and the Scottish Government on a range of issues affecting the respective Governments, including financial powers.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when officials from his Department *(a)* last met and *(b)* next plans to meet with representatives of (i) HM Treasury and (ii) the Scottish Government to discuss the implementation of the Government's proposals for a Scottish income tax. [83067]

David Mundell: Under the terms of the Scotland Bill, the Scottish Parliament—not the Chancellor of the Exchequer—will set the new Scottish rate of income tax. The main UK rates of income tax will be reduced by 10p for those defined as Scottish taxpayers, and the Scottish Parliament will be able to set a new Scottish rate. The Command Paper published alongside the Scotland Bill set out that this change will take effect from April 2016.

Scotland Office officials have regular meetings with officials from the HM Treasury and the Scottish Government on a range of issues affecting our respective Governments, including financial powers.

WALES

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many internal audits have taken place in her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [82535]

Mr David Jones: In the financial year 2010-11 there were five internal audits undertaken by the Ministry of Justice's internal audit division. Each year an internal audit programme is agreed with the Accounting Officer and findings are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee. The audits seek to provide assurance to the Accounting Officer on governance, and control and risk management arrangements within the Wales Office.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by her Department; [83757]

(2) what proportion of food sourced by her Department was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83758]

(3) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that it meets the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83759]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow East (Margaret Curran) on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of her Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [82564]

Mr David Jones: No official photographs of Ministers or senior officials in the Wales Office were taken since May 2010. Press office staff routinely take photographs of ministerial visits and events.

Devolution

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) when she expects to publish a revised version of the devolution guidance note on post-devolution primary legislation affecting Wales; [82919]

(2) when she plans to publish a devolution guidance note setting out the process for modifying the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales under section 109 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [82933]

Mrs Gillan: Updated guidance will be published shortly.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many internal audits have taken place in the Law Officer's Departments in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82553]

The Solicitor-General: Since 1 November 2010, the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) internal audit service has completed 33 and commenced a further 26 audit engagements.

The Serious Fraud Office has completed 11 internal audits in the past 12-month period from November 2010 to October 2011.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate have together undertaken and reported 15 internal audits in the 12 months ended 22 November 2011.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in the Law Officers' Departments for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of the Law Officers' Departments are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership teams as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82583]

The Attorney-General: The Attorney-General's Office (AGO) arranged one photo shoot for me soon after my appointment in May 2010, the photos taken have been used on the Department's website and in third party publications. There has been no expenditure on official photographs since, although on occasion photos of staff and Ministers have been taken for use in internal and external communications. There are no staff within the AGO who have an official role in taking photographs, this task is instead undertaken by any staff member on an ad hoc basis.

Since May 2010 the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) have taken no official photographs of senior officials in TSol for use in Government publications. One executive officer at TSol takes occasional photographs of senior officials as part of his duties on communications and engagement work.

Since May 2010, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) have taken no official photographs of senior officials in HMCPSI for use in Government publications. One higher executive officer at HMCPSI takes photographs when required of senior officials as part of his publication duties.

The SFO has engaged the use of a photographer once since May 2010. This was to take official photographs of the director, chief executive and seven senior team members. These photographs are used extensively for both internet and hard copy publications for internal and external purposes.

There are no staff within the SFO who have official duties to take photographs.

In August 2010, a set of photographs were taken of both the DPP and the CEO by a professional photographer. From this set, 12 photographs of the DPP and four photographs of the CEO were selected for official use externally or internally, including within the CPS and other Government publications.

As part of their duties, two members of staff from within the Communication Division have responsibility for taking photographs of CPS staff and events as required.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Attorney-General what procedures the Law Officers' Departments have put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been identified using those procedures in the last year. [82317]

The Attorney-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate to Government central guidance which requires key commodities to be purchased utilising framework arrangements, and other purchases with a Whole Life Value exceeding £10,000 to be advertised through the Contracts Finder website. All Departments are committed to securing value for money from purchasing and its policy is to award contracts to those suppliers that offer the most economically advantageous tender.

Where practical, purchasing is transferred to framework arrangements negotiated by the Government Procurement Service (or lead Departments appointed by it).

TSol retains limited information on the level of savings generated from purchasing by all three Departments but agreements made in the last year are expected to generate savings of at least £850,000.

TSol also manages the Government's panels of external counsel. Fee rates paid to panel counsel have been maintained at 1998 levels and represent very good value for the Government.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) continually looks at ways to increase their efficiency and improve their results while reducing their spending in order to meet the aims of the cost spending review. These include investment in technology to increase efficiency in processing digital material; recruitment controls; the use of pan government procurement frameworks; reduction and changes of their accommodation; improved authorisation processes for all expenditure over £5,000 and improved processes to manage travel expenditure.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has implemented a number of procedures to ensure value for money on purchases. These include: the adoption of pan government contracts for the supply of general goods and services; regularly reviewing and renegotiating contract pricing with suppliers; and collaborating with other Departments when tendering for new contracts to maximise buying power.

As a result of these measures the following savings were made in 2010-11:

- a 17% price reduction in the cost of copying paper achieving estimated savings of £100,000 and future year savings of £211,000 per annum;
- renegotiated pricing for printer toner cartridges resulting in savings of £70,000 and future year savings of £145,000 per annum;
- a 25% reduction in in-house advocate assessment costs savings of approximately £200,000 and future year savings of £400,000 per annum;
- estimated savings of £175,000 as a result of a new contract for the appointment of receivers to act in cases involving the recovery of criminal assets, with estimated future year savings of £300,000 per annum;
- a new discount price structure was negotiated and agreed with the Department's supplier of legal publications. Savings of £72,000 per annum have been achieved; and
- fuel price increases were absorbed into existing contract prices resulting in no price increase in remote file storage costs.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Ian Lavery: To ask the Attorney-General on how many occasions the Crown Prosecution Service has *(a)* charged a person with a criminal offence and *(b)* decided not to charge a person with a criminal offence following an accusation of assault on a member of prison staff in each of the last five years. [83407]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains no central record of victims' professions and they are unable to identify, from their central database, those assault cases involving prison staff. The data could be obtained only by examining all of the CPS's files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Serious Fraud Office: Manpower

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Attorney-General how many support staff were employed in the Serious Fraud Office in each of the last five years. [83509]

The Attorney-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his question 81943 on 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 421W.

TRANSPORT

Airlines: Heathrow Airport

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on competition issues following the sale of BMI; [80520]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of levels of competition in air services between Scotland and London Heathrow; [80522]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of the effect of one airline group owning a majority of slots at Heathrow Airport. [80523]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment she has made of the level of competition in air services between Scotland and Heathrow airport; [81206]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects on the level of competition of one airline group owning a majority of slots at Heathrow airport. [81208]

Mrs Villiers: Proposals for the sale of BMI are a commercial matter for its owner, Lufthansa. Any competition issues arising from the proposed sale of BMI would be subject to consideration by the appropriate UK and/or EU competition authorities. The allocation, transfer and exchange of slots at Heathrow are governed by EU law. Decisions on how airlines utilise airport slots are commercial matters for the airlines concerned. The UK Government and Civil Aviation Authority have no role in this.

Aviation: Business

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* business representatives and *(b)* aviation groups on improving aviation in order to support businesses. [82331]

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* business representatives and *(b)* aviation groups on improving aviation for the purposes of supporting businesses. [82411]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening) and I regularly engage with business and aviation representatives on a range of aviation issues. The Government want to see a successful aviation sector which facilitates economic growth and addresses its environmental impacts. We are committed to issuing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012.

Aviation: Working Hours

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure the European Aviation Safety Agency's flight time limitation scheme provides adequate protection from fatigue. [83427]

Mrs Villiers: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has responded to the European Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA) consultation on flight time limitations setting out our concerns. We have highlighted three of these concerns as being "major objections" for the purposes of the rulemaking process. A representative of the CAA participated in the group which assisted EASA in their review of the responses to consultation. We expect that EASA's consultation response document for its proposals on flight time limitations will be published in mid January next year.

Cycling: Training

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on the number of children taking part in Bikeability training of the decision by Cambridgeshire county council to charge those participating. [81651]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not made any assessment, though in general terms the level charge levied is likely to have an impact on the take-up of the scheme. The Department provides a contribution of up to £40 per Bikeability training place to local highway authorities and School Games Organiser host schools. Any costs above the grant need to be sourced locally and it is at the council's discretion whether or not to charge.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flags her Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and at what cost in the last 12 months. [82960]

Norman Baker: There are six flags owned and maintained at the Department for Transport headquarters building. Maintenance costs are not separately recorded as they form part of the on-site facilities management contract price. During the last 12 months £250 was spent on the purchase of a new flag.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) owns and maintains 32 flags for its buildings. The MCA has spent £67 on new flags in the last 12 months.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many plugged-in recharging points for electric vehicles have been installed in the UK to date. [78565]

Norman Baker: The Office for Low Emission Vehicles is currently working to establish a National Chargepoint Register that will make it much easier to locate chargepoints and track the growth in the national charging network. This will be operational early next year. Our assessment is that the number of installed chargepoints in the UK is more than 2,500, of which 765 have been delivered (to 14 October 2011) through the Government's Plugged-In Places trials and the remainder through investment by private sector organisations.

Private sector organisations have commitments to deliver approximately a further 4,000 points across the UK by the end of 2012.

European Union Fuel Quality Directive

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had on the European Union fuel quality directive with representatives of (i) the Canadian Government and (ii) oil companies. [82077]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not held any meetings with the representatives of the Canadian Government or oil companies regarding the fuel quality directive since joining the Department in October.

Department for Transport Ministers and officials have had numerous meetings with various stakeholders including representatives of oil companies, biofuel producers, trade associations representing the transport fuels industry, UK and international non-governmental organisations (including those representing environmental and social issues), the European Commission, European member states and the Canadian Government to discuss all aspects of the fuel quality directive and will continue to do so as necessary.

Mayors

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Government's consultation on mayoral powers, entitled What can a mayor do for your city? A consultation, and the Open Public Services White Paper, what assessment she has made of powers of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* non-departmental bodies and *(c)* passenger transport executives for which her Department is responsible which could be devolved to elected mayors. [82593]

Norman Baker: As the consultation paper makes clear, the approach we are proposing is to look to the cities themselves to come forward with their own proposals for decentralising services and power to the city mayor.

Parking: Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with Westminster City Council on the issue of parking charges; [83596]

(2) what representations she has received on Westminster City Council's parking policy in the last three months; [83597]

(3) whether officials from her Department have met with Westminster City Council to discuss its proposals to extend charges for parking during the evenings and on Sundays; and if she will make a statement; [83598]

(4) what her Department's policy is on Westminster City Council's proposals to extend charges for parking during the evenings and on Sundays. [83599]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), spoke with Councillor Colin Barrow about this matter on 24 November 2011. Officials at the Department for Transport have not had recent discussions or met with Westminster city council on the issue of parking charges.

The Department's officials have received two representations from members of the public regarding Westminster city council's parking policy in the last three months.

Councillor Colin Barrow of Westminster city council wrote to Ministers at the Department on 15 November explaining why the council has taken the decision to extend parking controls in the West End.

The setting of parking charges in local authority car parks and in on-street parking bays and all decisions relating to the operations of such parking are a matter for the local authority, in accordance with powers available to it in the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984, and taking into account the interests of local residents, businesses and visitors. The Department's operational guidance to local authorities, Parking Policy and Enforcement, makes clear that it is for each local authority to decide what to charge for parking and the decision should reflect the objectives of their Local Transport Plan. The revenue that local authorities raise from on-street parking charges must be used in accordance with section 55 (as amended) of the RTRA 1984, which limits the use of surplus funds to transport related objectives or for environmental purposes.

Passenger Transport Executives: Finance

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budgets are for the passenger transport executives covering *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in each of the last five years. [82730]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not set the budgets for passenger transport executives (PTEs) and so does not hold the information requested.

The annual accounts of the PTEs are, however, publicly available on the relevant websites.

Additionally, Bristol, Nottingham and Leicester do not have PTEs.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the net effect on jobs of her Department's decision to award the Thameslink train contract to Siemens; and if she will make a statement. [83319]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 771W.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with representatives of Transport for London on preparations for severe winter weather; [81220]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to co-ordinate its response to severe winter weather with that of Transport for London. [81221]

Norman Baker: Officials meet regularly with representatives from Transport for London, as well as the rail industry and other organisations to ensure preparedness for any severe weather this winter and to ensure that Transport for London is co-ordinating its plans effectively with those of other transport operators.

Both London Underground and London Rail have reviewed their winter preparations and performance and have taken on board lessons learnt from last winter. Steps that have been taken include the overhaul of equipment on track, trains and signals, service control management, station service and appropriate operational instructions to train operators reminding them of appropriate driving technique in snow and ice. In addition, special modifications to London Overground trains have since been implemented to improve traction performance, and drivers of London Overground and tram rolling stock will be given reminders relating to defensive driving techniques during adverse weather. The Docklands Light Railway traction current equipment leaves it better protected than other systems, making it comparatively reliable in snow and ice conditions.

Transport for London is also represented on the Winter Road Salt Network Group chaired by officials in the Department for Transport. This group has met on numerous occasions throughout this year.

In addition, the Winter Resilience Network (WRN), facilitated by the Cabinet Office, brings together representatives from all relevant UK Government Departments, the devolved Administrations, Transport for London and the Local Government Association. It has overseen cross-government preparations to ensure that lessons from the past have been identified and addressed where possible for the coming winter. Ministers have been regularly briefed on progress, consulting colleagues where necessary.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beekeeping: EC Law

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of the European Court of Justice ruling on genetically modified pollen in honey on beekeepers and small businesses. [82387]

Mr Paice: This matter is being discussed at EU level. We are arguing that beekeepers and the honey industry should not be faced with unreasonable costs because of the ruling made by the Court, and want the European Commission to propose a pragmatic solution. DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency are working together on this, and to help make the case for action the UK honey sector has recently been asked for evidence on the potential effects of the ruling.

Biofuels: Air Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the contribution of pollutants covered by the Air Quality Strategy from the combustion of biomass in biomass generating plants to air quality in the latest year for which figures are available. [82622]

Richard Benyon: The UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) estimates emissions of air quality pollutants from a range of emission sources on an annual basis. The following table sets out emissions for 2009 from the different sectors that contribute to biomass power generation, it does not include domestic emissions. Some fuels may include non-biomass fractions. There are no recorded emissions of 1,3 butadiene from biomass power generation in the NAEI. Ozone is not included in the NAEI because it is not directly emitted but formed by reactions in the atmosphere between precursor gases.

We have not made any estimates of the impact of current biomass generating plants on ambient air quality.

2007 Air quality strategy objectives

	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	Benzene	Nitrogen oxides	Sulphur dioxide	Benzo(a) pyrene	Carbon monoxide	Lead	Ammonia
	Tonne	Tonne	Tonne	Tonne	Tonne	kg	Tonne	Tonne	Tonne
Total for biomass power generation	1,160	945	9.5	9,894	657	3.2	29,130	0.78	792
Biomass power generation as a percentage of the national total emissions	1.0	1.3	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	1.3	1.3	0.3

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* level and *(b)* carcinogenicity of titanium dioxide released by biomass generating plants. [82635]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not carried out an assessment of the level and carcinogenicity of titanium dioxide released by biomass generating plants. From analyses carried out by the Environment Agency, it has been reported as a trace component of wood chips (approximately 0.3% by weight) and palm oil kernels (approximately 0.12% of ash weight). It has also been measured at low concentrations (0.6%-0.85%) in pulverised fuel ash from trial burns of wood chip and heavy fuel oil.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received representations from Ministers or officials in the Home Department not to hold the proposed badger cull in the same year as the London 2012 Olympics. [74558]

Mr Paice: We have received no such representations. However DEFRA officials are working closely with officials in the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers on the proposed badger control policy. Their advice relates to public order and safety, domestic extremism, wildlife crime and firearms licensing.

Common Agricultural Policy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average sum was received by farmers *(a)* in each constituent part of the UK and *(b)* at the smallest geographical level for which figures are available directly and indirectly from the common agricultural policy in the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [82386]

Mr Paice: The average sum received by beneficiaries of the CAP for the financial year 2010 within each of the constituent parts of the UK, the only geographical level for which such data are readily available, is as follows:

Paying agency	*Average sum per beneficiary (€)*
RPA	19,176
SGRPID (Scotland)	35,288
WAG (Wales)	22,140
DARD (Northern Ireland)	9,783

Note:
1. The sums above refer to all funding under CAP provisions, including UK co-financing where appropriate.
2. The financial year in question ran from 16 October 2009 to 15 October 2010.

Commons Act 2006

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department are working on monitoring and implementing the provisions of the Commons Act 2006. [82380]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA currently has 1.5 staff working on monitoring and implementing the provisions in the Commons Act 2006 and support is provided by DEFRA legal advisers. Casework consents relating to common land under the 2006 Act and other enactments are managed on behalf of the Secretary of State by a team of five staff in the Planning Inspectorate.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to extend the provisions of part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 beyond the seven pilot areas. [82381]

Richard Benyon: I have provisionally agreed a further implementation of provisions in part 1 of the Commons Act 2006, subject to further analysis of costs and benefits. Our provisional intention is two-fold: firstly, to fully implement part 1 in a further small number of volunteer local authorities from April 2013; secondly, to commence throughout England those provisions that allow for the correction of wrongly registered land. This second element would bring into force section 19 of the Commons Act 2006 and paragraphs 5-9 of schedule 2 to the Act, and would commence in April or October 2013. I expect to formally announce our plans early next year, in light of the further work on costs and benefits.

Legal: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by her Department in the first six months of 2011. [78472]

Richard Benyon: The Department's records do not separate out the cost of legal advice from other expenditure on legal services, but the full net cost of the Department's in-house legal team in the first six calendar months of 2011 was £3,565,412.

The total cost of all payments to external solicitors and counsel in the first six months of 2011 was £496,451. This includes costs relating to representation in court and not legal advice alone. It would be disproportionately costly to identify these types of costs separately.

The figures include the cost of internal and external legal advice to DEFRA's executive agencies, but exclude the cost of any external legal advice commissioned directly by executive agencies, records of which are not held centrally. It would be disproportionately costly to disaggregate the figures.

Eco-towns

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of eco-towns to *(a)* rural housing, *(b)* sustainable rural communities and *(c)* growth in the rural economy. [80778]

Richard Benyon: To date, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has made no separate assessment of the potential contribution of eco-towns to rural housing, sustainable rural communities, and to growth in the rural economy.

Eco-towns are just one option for achieving sustainable development and can play a key role in testing and demonstrating, through their scale, greater levels of innovation in sustainability and meeting local housing need. Learning from these locally-led developments as they progress will be of interest to the Government.

Waste: Norfolk

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce her decision on the proposed energy-from-waste plant in Norfolk; and if she will publish the criteria on which she made her judgement. [82254]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), wrote to Norfolk county council seeking further evidence in support of its application for waste infrastructure credits. Norfolk county council has now responded by providing further information to the Secretary of State, which she is currently considering. The timing of an announcement on her decision depends on the outcome of her current consideration of the evidence provided.

DEFRA's waste infrastructure criteria were laid down by the previous Government and have been in the public domain for a number of years.

Inland Waterways: Dredging

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the backlog of dredging on British Waterways' canals and rivers to be cleared. [82333]

Richard Benyon: Dredging is an operational matter for British Waterways (BW) and it applies risk-based prioritisation to its maintenance expenditure. The Government require BW to operate and maintain waterways to standards that reflect use and prospects of use.

BW estimate that the cost of clearing the current backlog of dredging would be approximately £40 million. BW has not set a time scale for dealing with the dredging backlog because it is subject to BW's need to prioritise expenditure on its major infrastructure assets. However, it prioritises dredging at locations that cause particular boating constraints.

Future prioritisation of expenditure on the operation and maintenance of the waterways will be a matter for the Canal and River Trust, once BW's functions and assets in England and Wales are transferred to the charity.

Marine Conservation Zones

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the written ministerial statement of 15 November 2011, on marine conservation zones: update, what additional resources will be provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Natural England for carrying out seabed and habitat monitoring. [82253]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will provide approximately £3.5 million over the next three years for seabed and habitat monitoring and there are ongoing discussions between DEFRA and Natural England (NE) on funding by NE from 1 April 2012 for work related to Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The monitoring work will directly support the MCZ designation process and will also support work in other areas, such as the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she has allocated for seabed and habitat monitoring to support the designation of marine conservation zones. [82468]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will provide approximately £3.5 million over the next three years for seabed and habitat monitoring. The monitoring work will directly support the marine conservation zones designation process and will also support work in other areas, such as the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she has allocated for work to support *(a)* the review of the evidence base for regional projects' recommendations for marine conservation zone (MCZ) sites and *(b)* other work associated with MCZ designation. [82470]

Richard Benyon: The information is as follows.

(a) Funds have been set aside to support the review of the evidence base for the regional projects' recommendations but decisions on the final allocation will be made once the contracts for the work have been let.

(b) In addition to existing funding for work to support MCZ designation, DEFRA will provide approximately £3.5 million over the next three years for seabed and habitat monitoring. This will also support work in other areas, such as the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Nitrogen Dioxide: Pollution

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to commission an equality impact assessment for her policies on air quality and levels of nitrogen dioxide. [83081]

Richard Benyon: The need for an equality impact assessment is considered as part of the wider impact assessment process for new policies in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines. This will remain the case for any new air quality policies we take forward to help meet air quality limits for nitrogen dioxide.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* food industry bodies and *(b)* the egg industry on the implementation of a production-method labelling scheme for multi-ingredient food products containing eggs to mitigate the potential effects on the industry of the import of (i) food products

manufactured from shell eggs produced in non-compliant systems in the EU and (ii) egg product manufactured from conventional cage production systems outside the EU; and what estimate her Department has made of the cost of introducing such a system. [82489]

Mr Paice: We have not discussed this specific idea with either the food or egg industries. As an allergen, egg is required to be labelled on all products. However, I have had a number of meetings to discuss how to protect UK producers from non-compliant product.

In giving evidence to the EFRA Committee inquiry into the implications for the egg industry in March this year, the British Retail Consortium argued that there has been a strong move by retailers to enhance own brand products by labelling premium products used as the main ingredient, such as free-range egg in quiches. There would be little marketing value for retailers to promote enriched caged egg by labelling products which contain small amounts of egg as a component.

Reed

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on cutting and burning of reed in each year since 2006. [82720]

Richard Benyon: There are 313 higher level stewardship agreements within the Rural Development Programme for England which have reedbed options. These cover 2,303 hectares of reedbed, of which, 264 hectares are newly created. The management options include cutting as part of sustainable management of reedbeds. There is no support for burning reedbeds. The amount spent on these options since higher level stewardship opened is set out in the following table:

	Spend (£)
2006-07	5,622
2007-08	29,100
2008-09	49,687
2009-10	83,767
2010-11	152,649
April to October 2011	84,904

In addition, there are just over 8,000 hectares of reedbed managed on national nature reserves, for which management costs are included in the general running costs of the reserves.

Rights of Way

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she is making on recording historic rights of way. [82379]

Richard Benyon: It is local authorities that are responsible for recording rights of way on the definitive map and statement (the local authority's legal record of public rights of way). There are no centrally held records on the progress that individual local authorities are making on recording rights of way.

In the Government White Paper 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of Nature', DEFRA announced that it will consult on simplifying and streamlining the processes for recording and making changes to public rights of way, based on proposals made by Natural England's working group on unrecorded rights of way. I am currently considering the options for this consultation and expect to make an announcement shortly.

Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to review the provision of private finance initiative credits for incinerator and waste projects. [82382]

Richard Benyon: There are currently no plans to review the provision of waste infrastructure credits (formerly PFI credits) for waste projects. At the 2010 spending review, the number of waste infrastructure projects supported by DEFRA was reduced from 39 to 32, with a financial allocation of £2 billion in waste infrastructure credits.

Waste Policy Review

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has identified any factual errors in its Waste Review. [82497]

Richard Benyon: No factual inaccuracies were found which were sufficient to require us to publish an updated version of the main Waste Review document and action plan. DEFRA aims only to publish updated versions of documents if there is a need to correct significant inaccuracies.

Rainwater Harvesting

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department's Water White Paper will include proposals on the use of rainwater harvesting; and if she will make a statement. [82076]

Richard Benyon: The Water White Paper will be published in December. We recognise that when used appropriately rainwater harvesting can make a positive contribution to minimising potable water use, particularly when used alongside other water efficiency measures.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity: Tariffs

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of tariffs available to electricity customers in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010. [82431]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold the data requested.

Ofgem, as part of their retail market review have found that the number of tariffs available has increased from around 200 in January 2007 to almost 400 by January 2011[1].

Details of Ofgem's findings are available online at:
http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

The Government support Ofgem's proposals to simplify tariffs, so that consumers can compare prices between suppliers more easily.

Ofgem is due to publish its detailed proposals for tariff simplification in a consultation document by the end of this month.

[1] The Ofgem figures combine information on gas-only, electricity-only and dual fuel tariffs and does not include payment type options, only the number of offers available.

Fuel Poverty: Rural Areas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of households were living in fuel poverty in *(a)* rural-50, *(b)* rural-80 and *(c)* significant rural communities in England in each of the last five years. [83321]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty data is not routinely produced by these classifications. The following data has been produced by matching DECC's local area fuel poverty data with DEFRA rural classifications at local authority level. DECC published data for 2006, 2008 and 2009 at local authority level, and the proportions of households in fuel poverty in England are shown in the following table.

Percentage

	Proportion of households in fuel poverty		
	2006	*2008*	*2009*
(a) Rural 50	12	17	19
(b) Rural 80	14	19	21
(c) Significant rural communities	11	15	17

Data for each of the last five years can be found in the table 'Trends in Fuel Poverty: 2003 to 2009' on this web page, although this is split simply by 'urban' and 'rural':

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx

Data is also available for 2003 from:

www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk

but this has not been produced on a consistent basis with that for the more recent years.

Heating: Oil

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage households that use oil for heating to switch to a lower carbon intensive fuel. [83527]

Charles Hendry: The Renewable Heat Premium Payment, launched earlier this year, is focusing on households living off the gas grid. The Renewable Heat Premium Payment is delivered by the Energy Saving Trust. All households in Great Britain which do not use gas from the mains for their heating supply, including those that use oil for heating, can apply for vouchers which provide cash back towards the installation of air to water heat pumps, ground or water source heat pumps, biomass boilers or solar thermal technologies.

Information gathered under the Renewable Heat Premium Payment will inform our proposals for supporting renewable heat by extending support to the domestic sector, in Phase 2 of the RHI. This will include consideration of measures for households off the gas grid and we will consult on proposals in due course.

Nuclear Installations: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to appoint a nuclear security specialist to the board of the Office for Nuclear Regulation. [82308]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Such an appointment, which is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive, will shortly be advertised on the Cabinet Office website.

Ofgem: Telephone Numbers

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on the use of premium rate telephone numbers by energy companies; and if he will make a statement. [82523]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers meet with Ofgem officials on a regular basis to discuss energy issues, including issues relating to the protection of energy consumers.

Decisions relating to the charges for telephone calls are a commercial matter for the energy company to decide. The majority of the major energy suppliers provide either a freephone or a local call rate number for customer services.

Bedfordshire Pipeline

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the ownership of the gas pipeline that runs adjacent to the village of Billington, south of Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire. [83342]

Charles Hendry: The Department holds no such information.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect of extending the warm home discount scheme to households which are in fuel poverty but not eligible for that discount. [83585]

Gregory Barker: The warm home discount scheme will assist around 2 million households in each year of its operation to 2014-15. The total cost of the scheme was set in the spending review at a maximum of £1.13 billion. The scheme has been designed to use the available funding to provide support with energy costs to more the most vulnerable and low income consumers.

The eligibility criteria used within the scheme were considered in the warm home discount consultation and accompanying impact assessment. These documents, together with the Government's response are available via:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/warmhome/warmhome.aspx

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many of his staff are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82589]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd).

Mental Health Act 1983

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has established a timetable for the passage of the proposed legislation to remove section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [83055]

Mr Harper: Lord Stevenson of Coddenham's private Member's Bill, the Mental Health (Discrimination) Bill, had its first reading in the House of Lords on 6 April 2011. It had its second reading on 25 November 2011. The Bill will now proceed to Committee. The Bill aims to repeal various pieces of legislation that discriminate against the participation of those with mental health conditions in public life including section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

The Government have already committed to repealing section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in a statement to the House on 3 February 2011 and, at its second reading, the Government indicated their support for this Bill as an appropriate opportunity to make this change. However, given the timing of the second reading, it will be extremely difficult for this Bill to gain Royal Assent in this Session. Should Lord Stevenson wish to reintroduce his Bill in the next session, the Government would be pleased to support it.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve standards of governance in Afghanistan. [83419]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working hard to help the Government of Afghanistan build their capacity to deliver services as well as improve transparency and accountability.

For example, DFID's contribution to the Government-led Civilian Technical Assistance Programme is helping to reform and build the capacity of 17 Ministries by providing technical experts to share their skills with the Afghan civil service. This will help strengthen the Government's ability to deliver better public services to the Afghan people. Through support for the Afghan Ministry of Interior, DFID is also helping to improve the asset management and procurement systems of the Afghan National Police.

DFID is also helping Afghan civil society hold the Government to account on a range of issues, including corruption and human rights. During my recent visit to Afghanistan, I launched a new civil society project 'Tawanmandi' ('strengthening' in Dari). Tawanmandi will provide grants to civil society organisations across Afghanistan to help them to engage more effectively with the Government and encourage them to be more responsive to their citizens, particularly women, youth and vulnerable groups.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to refugees and internally displaced peoples along the Thailand-Burma border. [82680]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my visit to Burma from 15 to 17 November 2011, I pressed the Burmese President and his Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts in Burma and to increase humanitarian access in border areas.

Through its project "Assistance to Conflict Affected People, Eastern Burma" the Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing towards the provision of food, shelter, other necessities and improved access to legal assistance to nearly 150,000 Burmese refugees in camps in Thailand. The project also finances the purchase of pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies which benefit people affected by conflict in eastern Burma, supports TB treatment for Burmese people on the border with Thailand, and provides aid for basic health care, food security, improved sanitation, and grants to help with the costs of schooling for internally displaced people in eastern Burma. The total cost of the project over three years from 2009 to 2012 will be more than £8 million.

DFID is in the process of reviewing the effectiveness of this project, which is due to end in 2012. Decisions on future funding for refugees and internally displaced people along the Thailand-Burma border will be taken in the first half of 2012.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist internally displaced Kachin people along the China-Burma border. [82707]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my visit to Burma on 15-17 November, I pressed President Thein Sein and senior Burmese Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts and for improved humanitarian access in border areas.

The Department for International Development is in contact with a number of organisations working in the conflict-affected areas of Kachin State both from inside Burma and from across the border in China. I have agreed that funding through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a humanitarian non-governmental organisation delivering aid to Kachin State from China may be used to assist

people who have been displaced by the recent outbreak in fighting. Humanitarian assistance provided cross-border from China has now reached an estimated 10,000 IDPs in Kachin State, and more than 5,000 Kachin IDPs have received assistance from inside Burma.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to help internally-displaced peoples in *(a)* Karen, *(b)* Shan and *(c)* Kachin states, Burma in the last six months. [82708]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: During my visit to Burma from 15 to 17 November 2011, I pressed the Burmese President and his Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts in Burma and to increase humanitarian access in border areas—including in Karen, Shan and Kachin States.

In Karen State, the Department for International Development (DFID) is helping internally displaced people (IDPs) through programmes which provide funding for the purchase of food by IDP families, basic health care, pharmaceuticals, other medical supplies, and improved food security and sanitation.

In Shan State DFID is supporting the work of the Shan Women's Action Network, including grants to help with the costs of schooling for IDPs.

DFID's aid for IDPs in Karen and Shan States forms part of a three year programme of support for people affected by conflict in eastern Burma at a cost of more than £8 million from 2009 to 2012. DFID is in the process of reviewing the effectiveness of this project. Decisions on future funding for refugees and internally displaced people along the Thailand-Burma border will be taken in the first half of 2012.

In Kachin State I have agreed that funding through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a humanitarian non-governmental organisation delivering aid to Kachin State from China may be used to assist people who have been displaced by the recent outbreak in fighting. Humanitarian assistance provided cross-border from China has now reached an estimated 10,000 IDPs in Kachin State, and a further 5,000 Kachin IDPs have received assistance from inside Burma.

Central African Republic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit the Central African Republic. [83160]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: No.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82541]

Mr Duncan: There have been 16 internal audits within the Department for International Development (DFID) in the last 12 months.

DFID is responsible for two non-departmental public bodies—the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which was subject to an internal audit in 2010, and the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, which is being audited within the current financial year.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there is a cap on the proportion of his Department's budget that is spent on carbon reduction projects. [83417]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The share of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) devoted to climate finance (including carbon reduction projects) will increase to 7.5% by 2014-15, within the 10% proposed by the previous Government. All climate finance will be spent in line with the guidelines set out by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82570]

Mr Duncan: Since May 2010, eight 'official' photographs of Ministers and senior officials—for use both internally and externally—have been taken in-house by staff members at zero incurred cost. Taking photographs of Ministers or senior officials is not the responsibility of any one member of staff.

In addition to this, photographs of Ministers and senior officials are occasionally taken by various members of DFID staff on an ad-hoc, informal basis, for example, on regional or overseas visits (again at no cost). Some of these images are occasionally used to illustrate the work of the Department, for instance, on the DFID website.

Developing Countries: Education

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what definition of support his Department used in the pledge to support 11 million children in school by 2015. [82668]

Mr Duncan: The definition used in the pledge to support 11 million children in school by 2015, relates only to bilateral country programme support. Support is defined as funding through various modalities to enable children to be enrolled in and attend school.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with other donor nations on the replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education; and whether he plans to encourage other nations to contribute. [82669]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote to 21 other donor

countries in March 2011 to encourage them to contribute to the Global Partnership for Education. The Secretary of State continued to advocate for replenishment of the Global Partnership ahead of the pledging event held in Copenhagen on 8 November, at which the UK was represented by the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien).

Following the successful replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education, the UK will continue to work closely with the partnership and other donor countries to ensure a continued focus on delivering the key results: improved access to a quality education for more of the world's poorest children.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on support through *(a)* multilateral and *(b)* bilateral channels for systematic measurement of learning outcomes for girls and boys in low-income countries. [82670]

Mr Duncan: In multilateral agencies, we are working towards systematic measurement of learning outcomes. This is already an agreed component of the new monitoring and evaluation system of the Global Partnership for Education and we are working in partnership with the World Bank to develop international benchmarking tools for learning outcomes. For this work to succeed it will be essential to work closely with developing countries to agree it as a priority.

We are monitoring learning outcomes in all our bilateral education focus countries except Afghanistan. In 13 countries we are also monitoring (and, where appropriate, supporting) other forms of learning assessments, including Early Grade Reading Assessments (EGRA) and community based testing of children's reading and mathematics at the household level. All data will be gender disaggregated.

Developing Countries: Teachers

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will require his Department's country offices delivering support to teacher training to ensure that gender awareness and inclusive training methods are prioritised. [82671]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government's pledge to train 190,000 teachers by 2014 will be delivered through multilateral organisations. In addition, DFID is supporting teacher training through our bilateral education programme and has issued guidance on inclusive education. All UK bilateral education programmes also have a specific focus on girls' education as part of their wider programme of education sector support.

In addition, DFID has recently announced a new Girls' Education Challenge over four years to help get up to 1 million more girls in school. This is likely to include supporting programmes that recruit, train, and support female teachers.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to lead the UK delegation to the High Level Meeting of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership in April 2012. [82712]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development strongly supports the work of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to increase accountability of both developing countries and donors for delivering results on the ground.

DFID recognises that it will be important to have a strong UK presence at the next High Level Meeting in April 2012. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has not as yet planned his detailed involvement at the spring meetings. DFID will give this important meeting the due consideration that it deserves and will ensure that the UK is appropriately represented.

Diaspora Communities

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Minister in his Department is responsible for its relations with diaspora communities. [83082]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All Ministers are responsible for engaging with diaspora communities, each with a particular emphasis on our respective policy areas.

East Africa: Overseas Aid

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to press other countries to assist in providing emergency relief to areas of East Africa affected by famine. [81725]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has been at the forefront of the world's response to the crisis in the horn of Africa. While UK lobbying has helped to attract significant financial support to humanitarian appeals, there remains a significant shortfall.

Over the summer I have spoken with a number of my international counterparts about the crisis in the horn; a central message I have pushed is the need for generous and sustained support to relief and recovery efforts. Specifically I have held meetings with:

Raj Shah from the United States Agency for International Development;

Ben Knapen, the Netherlands' Development Minster;

Dirk Niebel, Germany's Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development;

Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Co-operation of Sweden;

Henri de Raincourt, France's Development Minister; and

Franco Frattini, Italy's Foreign Minister.

In July I also pressed development Ministers and officials including:

Denmark's State Secretary for development policy, Ib Petersen;

European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs;

Deputy Director General and Minister of Foreign affairs for France, George Serre;

Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway, Erik Solheim;

Japanese President, Sadako Ogata;

Deputy Administrator of USAID, Donald Steinberg;

Chair of Development Assistance Committee France, Brian Atwood;

Director-General of Ausaid Australia, Peter Baxter;

President of CIDA Canada, Margaret Briggs;

Director General of International Cooperation the Netherlands, Yoka Brandt;

Vice Minister for Development Policy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Korea, Tae-Yul Cho;

Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation Switzerland, Martin Dahinden;

State Secretary for International Development Co-operation Sweden, Anna Helquist;

Political Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, Hege Hertzberg;

Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Eco-Cooperation Development Germany, Gudrun Kopp;

Managing Director of Public Policy Bill Gates Foundation, Geoff Lamb;

Managing Director of World Bank, Mahmoud Mohieldin;

Kenyan Prime Minister, Raila Odinga; and

Foreign Minister, George Saitoti.

The Prime Minister and his Deputy, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), have also discussed the crisis affecting the horn of Africa with a number of their counterparts.

Ethiopia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit Ethiopia. [83210]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I routinely publish details of visits through press releases unless there are security issues which preclude such disclosure. Where external bodies are involved, the information would be provided when available unless, once again, there are security issues which would restrict the timing and extent of disclosure.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanism he has in place to monitor the effectiveness of the UK's aid contribution to Ethiopia. [83194]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID has a range of mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness of UK aid to Ethiopia, and to make sure that we get maximum impact from every pound of taxpayers' money. These monitoring mechanisms include financial and performance reports, field visits, audits and evaluation.

UK aid supports millions of very poor and vulnerable people across Ethiopia, giving access to health care, education, safe drinking water and a safety net that prevents extreme hunger. In the last five years, with support from the UK, Ethiopia has:

halved the incidence of malaria;

deployed 32,000 more health extension workers;

vaccinated 1.3 million children under five;

rolled out an innovative social safety net to protect eight million of the most vulnerable people; and

put four million more children in primary school.

Famine: International Co-operation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider implementing the provisions of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger; and if he will make a statement. [82418]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government support the Charter to End Extreme Hunger's aim to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the Horn of Africa taking place in the future. In at-risk areas such as the Horn, we are already supporting the strengthened warning systems, resilience to disasters and stability that the charter calls for. In Ethiopia, for example, we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency aid by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels.

I have written recently to the non-governmental organisations behind the charter to express the Government's appreciation for their vital work and to note that I will take appropriate opportunities to express publicly my support for the charter's aims.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve standards of governance in Iraq. [83420]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has played a role in supporting improved standards of governance in Iraq since 2004. The UK Department for International Development (DFID), including through the UK Conflict Pool and the UK Arab Partnership, currently:

Provides technical experts working with the Iraqi Council of Ministers' Secretariat, the Iraqi equivalent of Cabinet Office, to strengthen the Government of Iraq's ability to develop and implement their key national priorities in order to better meet public needs and expectations;

Funds an International Monetary Fund (IMF) adviser working with the Ministry of Finance until 2013 to improve macro-economic governance in Iraq;

Provides technical assistance to five committees at the Iraqi Council of Representatives, strengthening their ability to hold Government accountable for their performance;

Helps Iraqi civil society organizations promote good governance of Iraq's extractive industry sector and hold the Government accountable in their management of associated revenues.

The UK also provides core contributions to and works closely with the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, both of which support improved standards of governance in Iraq. The EU co-operation strategy with Iraq for 2011-13 has good governance as its key focus in 2012.

Offences Against Children

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department includes the *(a)* sexual exploitation of children, *(b)* trafficking of children and *(c)* abuse of children by travelling sex offenders within the definition of violent crime in its Building Stability Overseas strategy. [82312]

Mr Duncan: The Building Stability Overseas Strategy was published jointly by the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development in July, and all three Secretaries of State share responsibility for its implementation.

The strategy acknowledges that conflict and violence can have a particularly devastating impact on the lives of children. It does not attempt to define what constitutes a violent crime. The strategy focuses more on conflict prevention than crime prevention: the latter is dealt with by other Government strategies, for example the Organised Crime Strategy and the Human Trafficking Strategy.

The UK Government are fully committed to the implementation of the UN convention on the rights of the child and takes their obligations under the convention very seriously. We want to continue to make progress in areas that will bring about real improvements to children's lives, including in fragile and conflict affected countries.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department includes the rights of children in its long-term research programme on social protection, conflict and fragility. [82352]

Mr Duncan: The Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium is a six-year, DFID-supported programme which includes research on key elements of child rights. The programme, currently in its inception phase, will generate evidence on livelihoods, social protection and basic services in fragile and conflict-affected situations in order to support better policies and programming. At present the evidence on children's access to social protection and to other basic services including water, health and education in conflict-affected parts of those countries is weak. These limitations result from the challenges associated with conducting research in situations of conflict. The programme is operating in:

Afghanistan;
Democratic Republic of Congo;
Nepal;
Pakistan;
South Sudan;
Sri Lanka; and
Uganda.

The Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium is a partnership of research organisations, all of which are either based in conflict-affected countries, or have extensive experience of conducting research in conflict situations.

From 2011 to 2016, the research consortium will carry out high quality research that focuses in the first instance on people's experiences of access to livelihoods support, social protection and basic services. It will disaggregate findings based on gender and age and this will allow an improved understanding of how access to social protection differs by age group or household composition. By gathering evidence overtime, the programme will also generate evidence about the impacts of different social protection programmes on key elements of child rights such as income, consumption, nutrition and health. The programme has a highly innovative research uptake strategy through which evidence on the specific experiences of children, in particular their access to social protection and to water, health and education services, can be used to influence those in governments, donor agencies and NGOs and ensure that these issues are dealt with adequately in policy and programme development.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to ensure the rights and protection of children are considered when implementing the Building Stability Overseas Strategy. [82353]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS) sets out how conflict and violence can have a particularly devastating impact on the lives of children. And implementing the BSOS strategy requires a consolidated effort, using all our diplomatic, development and defence capabilities.

The British Government provide £21 million per year in core funding to UNICEF and support a number of other projects to support children. For example the Department for International Development (DFID) funded a £2 million project to help discharge and rehabilitate members of the Maoist Army in Nepal, approximately 3,000 of whom had been recruited as children. The Government are also making efforts to get young children affected by conflict into education. In Pakistan, for example, our support will help 5 million more children attend primary school and ensure 500,000 young people benefit from better technical and vocational training by 2013. Also by 2015 we will help get an additional 800,000 children into education in northern Nigeria. Britain is a member of the United Nations Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which leads the international effort in this important area. This group focuses on pressing offending states to enter into concrete action plans to verify and release child soldiers, and on monitoring and reporting of violations.

The British Government are fully committed to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and take their obligations under the convention very seriously. Its aim is to continue to make progress in areas that will bring about real improvements to children's lives. We are also involved in UN discussions about the possible creation of a third Optional Protocol to the CRC, under which children would be able to bring allegations of violations directly to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is the lead Department on Children and Armed Conflict within Whitehall and works closely with the DFID and the Ministry of Defence.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve standards of governance in Pakistan. [83418]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working hard to improve government systems and institutions so that people receive the services they need and can hold Government to account for their delivery.

For example, DFID's sub-national governance programmes in Pakistan are helping to reform and build the capacity of the governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The work focuses on helping the authorities to improve systems for public financial management, human resource management, policy planning and co-ordination, and monitoring and evaluation. This work will help strengthen the Government's ability to deliver better public services for the Pakistan people.

DFID is also working to help support people to demand better services from their Government, including education and health care, and strengthen democratic processes and women's political participation. DFID will help to get another two million people (almost half women) to vote at the next general election.

Pitcairn Island: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to Pitcairn Island in each of the last 10 years. [83153]

Mr Duncan: The UK has provided bilateral aid to Pitcairn since 2002-03. Annual aid totals provided since then are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Bilateral aid (£000)*
2002-03	53
2003-04	66
2004-05	1,314
2005-06	2,582
2006-07	1,837
2007-08	1,460
2008-09	2,115
2009-10	1,790
2010-11	2,447

Full details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid expenditure, including in the British Overseas Territories, are published in "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

South Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department plans to allocate to south Sudan. [83421]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Following the secession of south Sudan on 9 July, the UK is providing over £90 million a year for the next four years to help the people of south Sudan. This funding will support international efforts to promote peace and stability in south Sudan. Specifically, our assistance will help: build more accountable, inclusive and transparent government; deliver basic services (such as education, clean water and health care); support economic growth; provide humanitarian relief; and improve security and access to justice.

This aid aims to achieve ambitious results including:

1 million people get enough food to eat

240,000 more children complete primary school

750,000 people to be treated for or prevented from getting malaria

4 million people receive life-saving health care and nutrition

Print and distribute 12 million textbooks to almost 2 million children

Increased private sector investment and trade by reducing cross border transport costs up by 15%.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many internal audits have taken place in her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [82554]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of her Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [82573]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports her Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83008]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many applications from employees to run services for which the Government Equalities Office is directly responsible she has received since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77605]

Lynne Featherstone: I have not received any applications from public sector employees to run services for which the Government Equalities Office is directly responsible.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement: [82548]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has undertaken 20 internal audits in the last twelve months (to the end of October 2011).

DCMS do not hold this information for our arm's length bodies. I have therefore asked their chief executives to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82578]

John Penrose: One official photograph of each Minister has been taken since May 2010. We have also taken an official photograph of three senior officials since May 2010.

Members of staff in the Department's Press Office and Strategic Communications Directorate are all able to take photos as necessary.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83009]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has published:

(a) One leaflet entitled "Consultation on the Regulations on Advertising Activity and Trading around London 2012" at a total cost of £4,500 plus VAT.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7760.aspx

(i) and (ii) COI.

One 'world press briefing' flyer produced at a total cost of £1,275 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) COI.

Two booklets for the Government Art Collection (GAC) exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery at a total cost of £21,579.34 (design, copyright and printing).

(i) Trade Winds, (ii) Park Studio

(b) None.

(c) The GAC's annual report, which was published online only and designed in house at no cost to the Department.

Report entitled "Consultation on the Regulations on Advertising Activity and Trading around London 2012" at a total cost of £12,579 plus VAT.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7760.aspx

(i) Park Communications, (ii) Typetechnique.

Report entitled "The Department for Culture, Media and Sport/Wolfson report" at a total cost of £8,508 plus VAT.

(i) Park Communications, (ii) Adfield.

Report entitled "Reviewing Committee of the Export of Objects of Cultural Interest Annual Report" at a total cost of £6,700 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) Quarterly Report May 2010 (online publication) at a total cost of £3,280 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

The GOE Quarterly Report July 2010 (online publication) at a total cost of £2,412.50 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

The GOE Quarterly Report November 2010 (online publication) at a total cost of 2,840 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

The GOE Annual Report 2010-11 (online publication) at a total cost of £8,769 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

The GOE Quarterly Report May 2011 (online publication) at a total cost of £3,039 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

The GOE Quarterly Report July 2011 (online publication) at a total cost of £2,989 plus VAT.

(i) and (ii) Redstone.

Each of these reports can be found on the DCMS website, or by using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8086.aspx

Mayors: Powers

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to the Government's consultation on mayoral powers, entitled What can a mayor do for your city? A consultation, and the Open Public Services White Paper, what assessment he has made of powers of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible which could be devolved to elected mayors. [82588]

John Penrose: The Department is committed to the decentralisation of power wherever possible. We have already devolved greater control over the Royal Parks to the people of London, and we look forward to seeing the results from the current consultation on mayoral power and will be working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government to carefully consider any ideas which are put forward in areas for which the Department is responsible.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that the issue of the full involvement of women in discussions on the future of Afghanistan is on the agenda for the Bonn conference in December 2011. [83592]

Alistair Burt: The Bonn conference on Afghanistan will focus on three themes: Civilian Aspects of Transition, Long Term Engagement and the Political Process. We have made clear to the Government of Afghanistan the need to discuss at Bonn an inclusive political process which addresses the needs of all Afghan citizens, including women.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that Afghan women parliamentarians and women's organisations are included in discussions at the Bonn conference in December 2011. [83593]

Alistair Burt: The British embassy in Kabul have raised this issue with the Government of Afghanistan and encouraged them to bring an inclusive delegation, including women, to the Bonn conference.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will represent the Government at the Bonn conference on the future of Afghanistan in December 2011; and what proportion of the UK delegation will be made up of women. [83594]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), will lead the UK delegation to the Bonn conference in December. The Government's International Violence Against Women Champion, the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), will attend the Civil Society Events at the conference. The remainder of the delegation will be comprised of 10 officials, of whom four will be women.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the issue of women's rights in Afghanistan and the involvement of women in all discussions concerning the future of Afghanistan at the Bonn conference in December 2011. [83595]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), will discuss the political process and the need for an inclusive political settlement which addresses the needs of all Afghan citizens, including women, at the Bonn conference.

Armed Conflict: Children

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's strategy is on the protection of children in conflict zones. [83104]

Mr Bellingham: The Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS) sets out how conflict and violence can have a particularly devastating impact on the lives of children. And implementing the BSOS strategy requires a consolidated effort, using all our diplomatic, development and defence capabilities.

The British Government provide £21 million per year in core funding to UNICEF and support a number of other projects to support children. For example Department for International Development (DFID) funded a £2 million project to help discharge and rehabilitate members of the Maoist Army in Nepal, approximately 3,000 of whom had been recruited as children. We are also making efforts to get young children affected by conflict into education. In Pakistan, for example, our support will help five million more children attend primary school and ensure 500,000 young people benefit from better technical and vocational training by 2013. Also by 2015 we will help get an additional 800,000 children into education in northern Nigeria.

Britain is a member of the United Nations Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which leads the international effort in this important area. This group focuses on pressing offending states to enter into concrete action plans to verify and release child soldiers, and on monitoring and reporting of violations.

The British Government are fully committed to the implementation of the UN convention on the rights of the child (CRC) and take their obligations under the convention very seriously. Its aim is to continue to make progress in areas that will bring about real improvements to children's lives. We are also involved in UN discussions about the possible creation of a third Optional Protocol to the CRC, under which children would be able to bring allegations of violations directly to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is the lead Department on children and armed conflict within Whitehall and works closely with the DFID and the Ministry of Defence.

Ascension Island

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials are stationed on Ascension Island. [83196]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has one official, the Administrator, stationed on Ascension Island.

Burma: Human Rights

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to raise with the authorities in Burma reports of violations of human rights in Kachin state in that country. [82705]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned about the fighting that continues in Kachin state, and the resulting displacement of tens of thousands of displaced people, as well as the credible reports of human rights abuses.

We have frequently raised our concerns about the situation in ethnic regions and pressed for the authorities to make serious efforts towards national reconciliation. Most recently during his visit to Burma on 15-17 November 2011, the Secretary of State for International Development, the right hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), pressed President Thein Sein and senior Burmese Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts and improved humanitarian access in border

areas. Our ambassador has also raised our concerns about Kachin state with Burma's National Human Rights Commission.

We have also continued to press for reform through the UN. We helped to secure a resolution reflecting our concerns in the UN General Assembly in November with specific reference to Kachin state and which was passed with a record majority.

Burma: Religious Freedom

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to raise with the Burmese authorities concerns over the new order issued on 14 October in Phakant Township, Kachin state, requiring Christians to submit requests for permission to undertake acts of religious devotion at least 15 days in advance [82681]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government condemn all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination in Burma because of their faith or belief. We raise our concerns over religious and ethnic persecution directly with the Burmese regime and with the international community. Our Deputy Head of Mission in Rangoon accompanied the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, to a meeting with the Burmese Minister of Religious affairs on 19 November 2011, and specifically raised the question of religious freedoms and the restrictions placed on Christians in Kachin state. Our ambassador in Rangoon also raised this issue with the Burmese Human Rights Commission in November.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken in response to reported attacks by soldiers of the Burma Army on *(a)* the Assemblies of God church in Muk Chyik village, Wai Maw Township, Kachin state on 6 November 2011 and *(b)* a Roman Catholic church in Namsan Yang village, Wai Maw Township and the Baptist Church in the same village on 16 October. [82682]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned by reports documenting violations of human rights by the Burmese military, including freedom of religion, in Kachin state. We condemn all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination in Burma because of their faith or belief.

We have raised our concerns over religious and ethnic persecution directly with the Burmese Government. Most recently during his visit to Burma on 15-17 November 2011, the Secretary of State for International Development, the right hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), raised this issue with the President, Vice President Tin Aung Myint Oo, the Speaker of the Lower House and other senior Ministers. Our Deputy Head of Mission in Rangoon accompanied the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, to a meeting with the Burmese Minister of Religious Affairs on 19 November and specifically raised the question of religious freedoms and the restrictions placed on Christians in Kachin state. Our ambassador to Rangoon discussed freedom of religion with the Burmese Human Rights Commission in November.

We have also continued to press for reform through the UN. We helped to secure a resolution reflecting our concerns in the UN General Assembly in November with specific reference to Kachin state and which was passed with a record majority.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of *(a)* violations of religious freedom and attacks on churches and *(b)* other human rights abuses in Kachin state, Burma; and what steps he is taking to further investigate such reports. [82704]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are deeply concerned by reports from Christian Solidarity Worldwide, documenting violations of human rights, including freedom of religion in Kachin state. The reports document attacks by the military on churches, restrictions on religious gathering of Christians and of the use of forced labour. We condemn all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination in Burma because of their faith or belief. Staff from our embassy are not permitted free access to the area.

We have raised our concerns over religious and ethnic persecution directly with the Burmese Government. Most recently during his visit to Burma on 15-17 November 2011, the Secretary of State for International Development, the right hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), raised this issue with the President, Vice President Tin Aung Myint Oo, the Speaker of the Lower House and other senior Ministers. Our Deputy Head of Mission in Rangoon accompanied the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, to a meeting with the Burmese Minister of Religious Affairs on 19 November and specifically raised the question of religious freedoms and the restrictions placed on Christians in Kachin state. Our ambassador to Rangoon discussed freedom of religion with the Burmese Human Rights Commission in November.

We have also continued to press for reform through the UN. We helped to secure a resolution reflecting our concerns in the UN General Assembly in November with specific reference to Kachin state and which was passed with a record majority.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief to seek an invitation to visit Burma to investigate reports of violations of freedom of religion or belief. [82706]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion requested permission to visit Burma in 2007. He sent a reminder letter in April 2008 but as yet the Burmese Government has not responded. The UK Government extends an open invitation to all UN Special Rapporteurs and encourages the Government of Burma to do the same.

The British Government condemns all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination in Burma because of their faith or belief. We have raised our concerns over religious and ethnic persecution directly with the Burmese Government. Most recently, our Deputy Head of Mission in Rangoon accompanied the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, to a meeting

with the Burmese Minister of Religious affairs on 19 November. Our ambassador in Rangoon also discussed freedom of religion with the Burmese Human Rights Commission in November.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82544]

Mr Lidington: The following table sets out the number of internal audit reviews undertaken in the UK and overseas for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), its trading fund (FCO Services) and Executive agency (Wilton Park) in the period November 2010 to October 2011. These audits were undertaken by the FCO Internal Audit Department. The table excludes external audit reviews carried out by the National Audit Office.

Also included, as appropriate, are the number of internal audit reviews in the UK and overseas undertaken by the internal auditors of the FCO's four Executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). The BBC World Service is part of the BBC (a public corporation) and is therefore excluded from the data. However, regular internal audit reviews of the World Service are carried out by BBC Internal Audit.

	Number
FCO (parent Department)	69
FCO Services (trading fund)	15
Wilton Park (Executive agency)	2
British Council (NDPB)	71
Westminster Foundation for Democracy (NDPB)	6
Great Britain-China Centre (NDPB)	1
Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (NDPB)	0

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82574]

Mr Jeremy Browne: It would incur disproportionate cost to count the number of photographs taken of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and officials across the world which could be used in a publication. Our photos are published on our website

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/

and flickr channels

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/what-we-do/fco-websites/flickr/

Photographs for publications are usually taken from this library.

Every year, the FCO holds or participates in hundreds of high profile meetings and events, for example with visiting foreign ministers. A member of staff takes photos at these events and for other FCO business. This is more cost-effective than employing external contractors to carry out this work on an ad hoc basis. Staff in our overseas network of posts take photographs of events and visits but details are not held centrally.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on first-class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75527]

Mr Lidington: Budgets in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are delegated to directorates and our global network of posts, but we hold central records on the information requested as follows: *(a)* £7,624, *(b)* nil and *(c)* £1,640. These figures relate to staff and ministerial travel.

There has been no expenditure on first-class air travel since the introduction of the new Ministerial Code on 21 May 2010. All travel by Ministers and staff is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code.

Ethiopia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials are stationed in Ethiopia. [83209]

Mr Bellingham: There are approximately 150 staff working at our embassy in Addis Ababa on behalf of the British Government. I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) to my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander) on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 993W:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110217/text/110217w0004.htm#11021776000866

Ethiopia: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the UK's relationship with Ethiopia. [83193]

Mr Bellingham: British-Ethiopian relations are strong and multi-faceted, based on numerous shared development, security and economic objectives. Britain is committed to supporting the development of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Ethiopia, and to working closely with Ethiopia actively to promote stability in the region. We look to achieve this through a substantive and successful development programme—Ethiopia is currently the largest recipient of British aid in the world— increasing trade links, and through regular and honest dialogue at both ministerial and official level. We are aware of the recent arrests of a number of opposition members and leaders

and independent journalists on terrorism charges and we have raised our concerns with the Ethiopian Government.

EU Law

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs into which measures the UK has exercised an opt-in under EU legislative arrangements since May 2010; and which further such measures have been proposed in that period in respect of which the possibility of a UK opt-in has arisen. [80740]

Mr Lidington: The UK has exercised an opt-in on 15 EU legislative arrangements since May 2010. 12 further measures were proposed during that period in which the possibility of an opt-in arose, but were not exercised.

Opt-in statistics:

Total since Lisbon treaty (December 2009 to present): 39

Opt-in: 21

Did not opt-in: 15

Schengen: Did not opt-out: 3

Schengen: Opted-out: 0

Current Government (May 2010 to present): 29

Opt-in: 15

Did not opt-in: 12

Schengen: Did not opt-out: 2

Schengen; Opted-out: 0

JHA measures the current Government has opted into:

(1) European Investigation Order—published April 2010

(2) Human trafficking—published March 2010

(3) Sexual exploitation of children—published March 2010

(4) Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP)—published June 2010

(5) EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement—published April 2010

(6) EU-Georgia Readmission Agreement—published May 2010

(7) Letter of Rights—published July 2010

(8) Attacks against information systems (cybercrime) Directive—published September 2010

(9) Recast EURODAC Regulation—published October 2010

(10) Brussels I—published December 2010

(11) Legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access—published December 2010

(12) EU Passenger Name Records—published February 2011

(13) EU-Australia Passenger Name Records—published May 2011

(14) Victims Directive—published May 2011

(15) Regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters (Civil European Protection Order)—May 2011

JHA measures the current Government has not opted into:

(1) Interpretation and Translation—published March 2010

(2) EU-Swiss agreement—published June 2010

(3) Intra-Corporate Transferees Directive—published July 2010

(4) Seasonal Workers Directive—published July 2010

(5) Amendment to EEA Agreement—published September 2010

(6) Cross-border enforcement of road traffic offences directive—published December 2010

(7) 2x directives:

1. Proposal on Matrimonial Property Regimes—published March 2011

2. Proposal on Property Consequences of Registered Partnerships—published March 2011

(8) 2x directives

1. Directives on asylum reception conditions—published June 2011—HO lead

2. Directive on procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection—published June 2011—HO lead

(9) Directive on Access to a lawyer—published June 2011

(10) Proposal creating a European Account Preservation Order—published July 2011

Schengen measures the current Government has not opted-out of:

(1) Arrangement between the EU and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland on the Schengen acquis—published March 2010

(2) Establishment of an IT Agency for the operational management of large scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice—published March 2010

The Government have not opted-out of any Schengen measures to which the UK's Schengen Opt-out Protocol has applied

Israel: Peace Negotiations

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on *(a)* talks between Israel and Egypt and *(b)* further negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority. [82620]

Alistair Burt: We remain in regular contact with US counterparts on middle east and north Africa issues.

In the statement made by the Prime Minister on 10 September, he welcomed Egypt's agreement that it would uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with Israel, stated that we looked to Egypt to honour this agreement, and urged both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability.

We are working closely with our international partners, including the US, to seek a return to negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians in line with the timetable set out in the Quartet statement of 23 September. This statement refers to President Obama's May parameters with which we agree.

Israel: Security

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* Egyptian and *(b)* Israeli counterpart on improving security on the Israel-Sinai border. [82621]

Alistair Burt: I issued a statement on 18 August condemning the attacks in southern Israel earlier that day, calling them appalling and senseless acts of violence and offering sincere condolences to the family and friends of those injured and killed.

We have reiterated these messages to Egyptian interlocutors, and the Egyptians have reassured us that they take their responsibilities very seriously.

In the statement made by the Prime Minister he welcomed Egypt's agreement that it would uphold Egypt's international agreements including its peace treaty with

Israel, stated that we looked to Egypt to honour this agreement, and urged both countries to work together to resolve current tensions and enhance regional stability.

We continue to deliver our key messages on the importance of upholding Egypt-Israeli relations in discussions at official level with both our Egyptian and Israeli interlocutors.

North Korea: Human Rights

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on whether the reported human rights violations in North Korea amount to crimes against humanity in violation of international law. [82890]

Alistair Burt: The United Kingdom is not in a position to assess fully whether the extent of the reported human rights violations in North Korea constitute crimes against humanity, as defined in international law. Nevertheless it is the UK Government's position that all allegations of serious crimes of international concern, including crimes against humanity, are fully investigated and that those responsible for such crimes are held to account. It is for this reason that we frequently raise our very serious concerns about the reported human rights violations with the North Korean authorities, both in London and through our embassy in Pyongyang. We also highlight these concerns regularly in the UN Human Rights Council and at the UN General Assembly. We also continue to call for the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in North Korea to be allowed access to North Korea to fully investigate the reported violations.

Pitcairn Island

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department provides to residents of Pitcairn Island. [83150]

Mr Bellingham: My Department works closely with the Department for International Development who provide annual budgetary assistance to Pitcairn. In addition we co-operate together on a number of ad hoc projects to develop Pitcairn in areas such as island infrastructure, child safeguarding capacity and human rights awareness. A Foreign and Commonwealth Office official is based on the island providing liaison with the Governor's Office and the community of professionals delivering law and order, health and social welfare services.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Pitcairn Island. [83151]

Mr Bellingham: Since 2009 we have improved access to Pitcairn Island by providing a regular shipping service with the charter of MV Claymore. Despite this, the total journey time from New Zealand is five days in each direction. There are no plans for a ministerial visit to Pitcairn Island at present.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department have visited Pitcairn Island in each of the last 10 years. [83152]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains a permanent presence on Pitcairn Island in the form of the Governor's Representative. In addition, officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development regularly travel to Pitcairn Island. The New Zealand-based Governor and Deputy Governor normally visit on an annual basis and the last visit by an official in this Department was in March of this year. Exact figures for visits by officials in each of the last 10 years are, however, not readily available.

Pitcairn Island: Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has recently had with his counterpart in Australia on means of travel between Australia and Pitcairn Island. [82971]

Mr Bellingham: There have been no such recent discussions.

Pitcairn Island: New Zealand

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has recently had with his counterpart in New Zealand on means of travel between New Zealand and Pitcairn Island. [82965]

Mr Bellingham: There have been no such recent discussions.

Russia

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions officials at the Embassy in Moscow have had with *(a)* General Tatiana Gerasimova and *(b)* General Nikolai Shelepanov. [82867]

Mr Lidington: Officials at our embassy in Moscow have not had discussions with General Tatiana Gerasimova and General Nikolai Shelepanov.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* General Tatiana Gerasimova and *(b)* General Nikolai Shelepanov have visited the UK Embassy in Moscow. [82868]

Mr Lidington: General Tatiana Gerasimova and General Nikolai Shelepanov have not visited our embassy in Moscow.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government has received on the activities of Brigadier Prasanna De Silva of the Sri Lankan High Commission when he was Commander of the 55th Division in Vanni during the final stages of the civil war. [83115]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of references in the UN Panel Report to the fact that the 55th Division, which was commanded by Major General De Silva, was operational in the Vanni in the final stages of the war. But we have not seen concrete evidence to support any specific war crimes allegations against Major General De Silva or troops under his command.

We continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to make progress on accountability for allegations of war crimes committed during the conflict and reconciliation between the communities.

Sri Lanka: Deportation

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government takes to monitor what happens to Sri Lankans deported from the UK to Sri Lanka. [83116]

Alistair Burt: The UK Border Agency does not routinely monitor the treatment of individual subjects once they are removed from the UK. However, individuals are provided with contact details of the high commission in Colombo and may contact them if they require any assistance.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office takes a close interest in the issue of human rights in Sri Lanka and works with the UK Border Agency in developing its policy on returns. There have been a number of allegations made in the Sri Lankan press of returnees being abused. All of these have been investigated by the British high commission and found to be unsubstantiated. We will continue to investigate any credible and relevant allegations and review our policy in light of any findings.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the security situation in areas where the Lord's Resistance Army is active. [83690]

Mr Bellingham: We assess that although the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has not carried out any large-scale attacks recently, it continues to pose an unprincipled and violent threat to civilian populations in all areas where it is active. Furthermore, the LRA remains a destabilising force due to the number of civilian displacements that it has caused (which, according to the UN, number over 440,000 people across the region since their campaign began).

DEFENCE

Ministerial Meetings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of meetings between Ministers of his Department and (i) Sir George Buckley, (ii) 3M and (iii) the American Legislative Exchange Commission; and whether (A) civil servants and (B) Mr Adam Werritty attended each such meeting. [78142]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 2 November 2011]:* Defence Ministers have not held meetings with Sir George Buckley.

We have no record of meetings between Defence Ministers, 3M or the American Legislative Exchange Commission but we do not hold an exhaustive list of employees and members of either organisation.

Armed Forces: Cash Dispensing

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cash machines there are on armed forces bases in the UK; and how many of such machines charge a fee for withdrawals. [83384]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers in *(a)* the Royal Air Force and *(b)* his Department hold a rank of Wing Commander or above. [83040]

Mr Robathan: The following table provides information on the total number of officers in the Royal Air Force that hold the rank of Wing Commander or above, as at 1 November 2011.

	Number
Air Chief Marshal	2
Air Marshal	8
Air Vice-Marshal	26
Air Commodore	89
Group Captain	342
Wing Commander	1,175

Officers of the armed forces can serve in a variety of appointments, both in the United Kingdom and overseas, but continue to be employed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Reductions are expected across the senior ranks in the light of the independent report by Lord Levene which considered the way in which the MOD is structured and managed. The reduction in number of senior staff will impact most significantly on non-command appointments.

Defence: Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with (i) BAE Systems and (ii) Babcock Marine on obtaining greater value from the existing terms of business agreement. [81902]

Peter Luff: Ministry of Defence officials have regular discussions with BAE Systems Surface Ships and Babcock Marine to ensure that the terms of business agreements (TOBAs) signed with each company are aligned with the evolving needs of Defence. This includes regularly reviewing progress in delivering the benefits agreed within the TOBAs. Both agreements are currently delivering savings in excess of their targeted benefits.

Consultants

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's policy is on employing its former employees as external consultants; [81296]

(2) how many former employees of his Department who were made redundant since May 2010 have been employed by his Department as external consultants since their redundancy. [81297]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Ministry of Defence (MOD) service and civilian personnel who take up employment on leaving the public service are obliged to seek clearance under the business appointment rules for public servants.

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments publishes information on former senior Crown servants who have taken up appointments since 1 April 2010 on its website at:

http://acoba.independent.gov.uk/former_crown_servants_appointments.aspx

The MOD does not hold information centrally on former employees who have been employed on consultancy contracts. We contract with consultancy companies to provide a service within a specific timescale. The assignment of individual consultants to a particular contract is therefore a matter for the company involved.

Departmental Correspondence

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many letters sent by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans in his official capacity to *(a)* Opposition and *(b)* Government hon. Members have been signed (i) personally and (ii) using an electronic or scanned signature since 11 May 2010; [83588]

(2) what proportion of correspondence from Ministers in his Department in their official capacity to hon. Members was signed *(a)* personally and *(b)* using a scanned or electronic signature since 11 May 2010; [83589]

(3) what his policy is on whether letters from Ministers in his Department sent in an official capacity to hon. Members should be personally signed; [83590]

(4) whether he has received any complaints about responses to hon. Members sent from the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans since 11 May 2010. [83591]

Mr Robathan: While information on the use of electronic signatures by my ministerial colleagues is not held centrally and there is no policy on the use of electronic signatures, I can assure the hon. Member that I approve and sign replies to signed letters which hon. Members, from all parties, send to me.

While information on complaints is not held centrally, I am aware of no hon. Members who have complained in writing about letters I have sent which refer to Members' use of a scanned signature.

The great majority of letters to my office from hon. Members are signed personally by those Members, indicating their interest in the concerns of their constituents.

Freedom of Information

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of freedom of information requests that have been made to his Department that have *(a)* been misplaced, *(b)* been inaccurately logged and *(c)* taken longer than 20 working days to answer substantively since 18 May 2010. [82951]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is a requirement to provide a substantive response to any request for information promptly and in any event within 20 working days.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies, including the Ministry of Defence (MOD). This information can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation-editions.htm

Statistics for 2010 and for the first two quarters of this year have been made available and those for the whole of 2011 will be collated and published by the MOJ in due course.

The MOD does not hold data on the number of FOI requests that have been misplaced and been inaccurately logged.

Marketing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on marketing from 1 May 2010 to 1 November 2011. [79656]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 9 November 2011]:* Since 14 June 2010 approval has been given for advertising and marketing activity of up to £51.4 million, although not all of this may have been spent and total detailed spend figures are not available. This total included approvals for armed forces recruitment activity totalling some £47.5 million and advertising and marketing approved for Defence Trading Funds. These approved activities will result in funds being spent both in the period requested and in future months. Despite reductions made in armed forces personnel, the services are still required to recruit some new personnel to ensure that skill sets and future requirements are met.

The armed forces depend on high quality young people wanting to join the services for rewarding and exciting careers. Despite the reduction in the overall numbers of service personnel, the armed forces are still recruiting and training to replace those personnel who leave the services at the end of their contracts. Since the armed forces predominantly promote from within, there is a need to take on new recruits, who will become the non-commissioned officers of the future.

Some advertising and marketing activity was approved on the basis that the activity would prove to be cost neutral, or indeed lead to an income stream into the Department. Allowing such activity is particularly important for Defence Trading Funds, where the Trading Fund is expected to recover its own running costs through commercial activity.

Departmental Travel

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department has been of overseas travel which *(a)* he has and *(b)* his advisers have undertaken since May 2010. [74751]

Mr Philip Hammond: From 10 May 2010 to 31 August 2011 (the latest date for which figures have been collated):

£65,910 was spent on overseas flights by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox); and

£184,000 was spent on flights for the accompanying private office staff and special advisers.

The total cost of accommodation over the period was £17,100.

In addition, costs with an indicative value of just over £38,000 were incurred by the Department through the use of spare capacity on RAF flights by the previous Secretary of State.

Medals: Diamond Jubilee 2012

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal available to service personnel who, due to injury or incapacity, will be unable to serve until the normal qualifying date of February 2012; and if he will make a statement. [78618]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Queen's diamond jubilee medal will be awarded to serving and volunteer members of the armed forces and the emergency services to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Her Accession on 6 February 2012. As is the tradition with jubilee medals it is a commemorative medal, therefore it has a commemorative purpose and, in keeping with similar medals, is given to those who are actually in service on the day of the anniversary and who have completed a stipulated period of service across government, in the uniformed services.

RAF Northolt

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future use of RAF Northolt. [81556]

Peter Luff: There are no current plans to change the use of RAF Northolt. As with all Ministry of Defence assets, we continue to scrutinise defence expenditure to ensure we get the best return for the taxpayer.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of civilian redundancies resulting from the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [81465]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) set a savings target equivalent to a reduction of 25,000 in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian work force by 2015. After allowing for normal wastage rates and the effect of current recruitment restrictions, it has been calculated that it will be necessary to achieve 15,500 paid releases in order to meet this target.

A voluntary early release scheme was launched earlier this year and, although the final number of acceptances will not be known until December 2011, is expected to yield some 5,500 exits by 31 March 2012. On 7 November 2011, the Department launched a second voluntary scheme with a target of achieving a further 10,000 exits between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2014.

So far as is possible, the MOD is committed to achieving work force reductions without recourse to compulsory redundancy. The SDSR target—equivalent to almost one third of the civilian work force—is undoubtedly challenging. Although large numbers applied for the 2011 scheme, and applications for the 2012-14 scheme are now starting to come through, it is impossible to say yet whether the Department will be able to avoid compulsory redundancies altogether.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Anniversaries

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the Audit Commission of each event to mark its 25th anniversary was; and where each such event took place. [82718]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 November 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission held two events in April 2008 to mark its 25th anniversary.

The first event was for external stakeholders and was held at the BT Tower. This was a sponsored event and the only cost to the Audit Commission was for photography which was £255.80, excluding VAT. The Rt Hon Lord Heseltine was a guest speaker at this event as the Secretary of State responsible for setting up the Audit Commission in 1983.

The second event was held at the Reform Club for former commissioners and long-serving members of staff from across the Commission. The total cost for this event was £9,873.11, excluding VAT.

Audit Commission: Hotels

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Burton of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 278W, on accommodation: public finance, whether the cost of accommodation for the Audit Commission's Chief Executive included the cost of any goods and services other than hotel accommodation. [82858]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 November 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The cost of accommodation for the Audit Commission's chief executive, referred to in the earlier answer, covers hotel accommodation of up to £120 per night, in line with the Commission's policy for all staff.

It does not include the cost of any other goods or services.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82549]

Robert Neill: DCLG hosts a shared internal audit service which is responsible for providing internal audit services to DCLG, the Cabinet Office and DCMS together with a number of non-departmental bodies with ties to the three Departments. There are other DCLG non-departmental bodies whose internal audit service is provided either in-house or by private sector contractors.

DCLG has carried out 51 internal audits, completed since 1 November 2010 to date, and there are currently five audit reports in draft format.

The DCLG in-house team completed 34 internal audits and have two reports in draft stage for the non-departmental bodies that they provide an audit service to: the QE11, Independent Housing Ombudsman Ltd, London Thames Gateway Urban Development Corporation, Thurrock Urban Development Corporation, West Northants Urban Development Corporation and Planning Inspectorate.

The following table illustrates the number of internal audits that have taken place in the DCLG non-departmental bodies that the in-house team are not responsible for.

Organisation	*Number of audit reports*	*Number in draft*
Leasehold Advisory Service	2	—
Infrastructure Planning Commission	7	—
Homes and Communities Agency	43	2
Architects Registration Board	4	—
Audit Commission	16	2
Local Government Ombudsman	10	1
Standards for England	10	1
Tenant Services Authority	5	2
Valuation Tribunal Service	7	3
Fire Service College	7	1

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82579]

Robert Neill: A portrait photograph was taken of incoming Ministers in May 2010. These were taken professionally and paid for personally by Ministers.

As part of this Government's drive to improve transparency, 105 photographs of senior officials and the Department's Non-Executive Directors have been taken for publication on the Department's website. Photographs of senior officials and Non-Executive Directors are taken by a member of staff as part of their duties.

When accompanying Ministers on official business, Communications Directorate officials occasionally take a camera to record the event at no extra cost; sometimes these pictures will include images of Ministers and senior officials.

In previous years for which costs are available, departmental spend on official ministerial photography, funded by the public purse, was as follows:

	£
2009-10	939.25
2008-09	445
2007-08	794
2006-07	470

Employment: Land Use

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans his Department has to estimate the amount of land available for industrial development in each local authority area; [82330]

(2) what plans his Department has to estimate the amount of land available for employment development in each local authority area. [83329]

Robert Neill: The Government do not estimate the amount of land which may be available for industrial development in each local authority. Local planning authorities are responsible for such assessments.

Empty Property: Council Tax

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the expiration of the £18,000 threshold for empty non-commercial property rates; and if he will make a statement. [82401]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for York Outer (Julian Sturdy) on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 2MC, and to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer) on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W.

Enforcement: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning enforcement notices were issued in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [83395]

Robert Neill: The number of planning enforcement notices issued by Bexley in the past five years are:

	Planning enforcement notices
2006-07	19
2007-08	21
2008-09	25
2009-10	27
2010-11	24

Housing: Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change in the level of section 106 funding received by local authorities as a result of his plans to allow developers to require local authorities to reconsider existing section 106 agreements for housing developments. [82790]

Robert Neill: There are currently high levels of stalled housing developments. For many of these schemes, section 106 agreements were negotiated in very different economic circumstances prior to April 2010. Some planning obligations negotiated at the height of the economic boom now make the site economically unfeasible—resulting in no development, no regeneration and no community benefits at all. We expect this regulation change to help bring forward development that otherwise may never go ahead. Through negotiation, local authorities may adjust their section 106 requirements to accommodate current market conditions and, in doing so, will facilitate development. This could result in an increase in the total amount of section 106 funding actually received by local authorities. The proposed change will not apply to obligations agreed after 6 April 2010.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect he expects the review of Section 106 agreements to have on the number of new affordable homes. [82791]

Robert Neill: We expect more market and affordable homes to be built, as the regulation change is designed to unlock development on stalled schemes that may otherwise never go ahead. On planning obligations agreed prior to April 2010, local authorities may need to reconsider section 106 agreements to ensure they reflect current market conditions. Some planning obligations negotiated at the height of the economic boom now make the site economically unfeasible—resulting in no development, no regeneration and no community benefits at all. However, authorities should not enter into revised agreements that would render the development unacceptable in planning terms.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the New Homes Bonus he expects will be used by local authorities to build new homes. [82792]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus is based on past increases in housing supply. It is a powerful and simple incentive for housing growth, because it ensures that those areas which are growing have the resources to meet the needs of their new residents and existing communities. Local authorities are best placed to understand these needs and lead the debate about spending priorities. Wychavon have developed a protocol, whereby up to 40% of the funding is spent by the community where the growth is taking place. While Dacorum are reinvesting the bonus in further housing and business growth, other councils are using the funds to keep council tax down or improve local services/facilities. This is a matter for local determination by elected councillors.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the build now, pay later policy in Peterborough city council area; and if he will make a statement. [83336]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 43-45, where I announced the publication of "Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England". In this I set out the Government's commitment to maximise the use of build now, pay later on as much formerly-used Government land as possible, where there is market demand, it is affordable, and it presents value for money for the taxpayer.

The use of build now, pay later to accelerate the release of surplus public land, including in the Peterborough city council area, will be decided on a site-by-site basis, taking account of site-specific issues.

Local Government Finance

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to alleviate the financial pressures on local authorities that have consistently kept their council tax low via the formula grant settlement. [82896]

Robert Neill: The 2011-12 Local Government Finance settlement provided a fair and sustainable settlement for local government to play its part in helping pay off the public deficit that we have inherited from the last Administration, and included unprecedented steps to protect those councils most reliant on grant. The consultation on the draft Local Government Finance Report for 2012-13 will be announced shortly.

The Government have set aside an extra £805 million, of which up to £675 million will be available to local authorities in England who freeze or reduce their council tax for a further year in 2012-13. This builds on the 2011-12 freeze offer taken up by all councils that is worth an additional £650 million in each year of the spending review.

Local Government: Trade Unions

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the use of check-off arrangements by local authorities for the payment of *(a)* trade union subscriptions and *(b)* the

political levy; whether local authorities are required to provide such a facility; and whether the cost to local authorities of administering such arrangements may be recovered from trade unions. [82714]

Robert Neill: Employment decisions are a matter for local determination by councils as employers. At a time when all councils need to make sensible savings to protect their front-line services, they should ensure that arrangements for collecting union subscriptions do not burden taxpayers. They should also consider making an appropriate local administration charge to trade union branches for providing this service or simply exercise their right not to offer this facility.

In due course, the Cabinet Office will be producing a policy paper on the use of facility time and how it can be reformed and reduced within the civil service. Subsequently, the Department for Communities and Local Government will provide guidance to local councils to help inform their own reviews on this matter.

Localism Act 2011

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether neighbourhood forums have the right to make future developments contingent on specific upgrades to local infrastructure following implementation of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. [82727]

Greg Clark: The requirements for infrastructure delivery are part of the Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy regime which is separate to the neighbourhood planning system introduced by the Localism Act. However, the neighbourhood forum could consider placing a condition on their draft Neighbourhood Development Order that a specific infrastructure element is in place before development commences—but any such condition would need to meet the relevant legal tests for planning conditions.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what redress communities will have in cases where they have satisfied the relevant criteria defined in the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, but local authorities refuse to agree to create a planning neighbourhood forum. [82728]

Greg Clark: A local planning authority may designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum if the authority is satisfied that it has met the conditions set out in Section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Where an authority refuses an application for designation it must give reasons for refusal to the organisation or body applying. We are currently consulting on draft regulations that would require the local authority to publish details of their decision in the interest of transparency:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningregulationsconsultation

A community's recourse in this situation will be influenced by the reasons for refusal given by the local authority. For example, the local authority might not designate an organisation if it is too small or has not adequately drawn its membership from across the neighbourhood area and different sections of the local community. In these circumstances the organisation or body may wish to amend their membership.

Where a community is not satisfied with the reasons for refusal given by a local authority it is appropriate that councils are given a reasonable opportunity to investigate and reply to complaints. The election of local councillors will also provide a democratic mechanism for local residents to express their views.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether neighbourhood forums will have a right to make future developments contingent on development gain being used within the area they cover following implementation of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. [82729]

Greg Clark: The requirements around infrastructure delivery are part of the Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy regime which is separate to the neighbourhood planning system introduced by the Localism Act. Under the Localism Act, neighbourhoods will, for the fist time, receive a meaningful proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy paid on development in their area.

Mortgage Indemnity Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether *(a)* foreign nationals living outside the UK, *(b)* foreign nationals from non-EU countries living in the UK and *(c)* EU nationals living in the UK will be eligible for support under the mortgage indemnity scheme; [82787]

(2) whether there will be a limit on the size of mortgage that will be eligible for help from the mortgage indemnity scheme; [82788]

(3) whether buy-to-let landlords will be eligible for support under the mortgage indemnity scheme. [82796]

Grant Shapps: The Government announced in the Housing Strategy a new build indemnity scheme to support up to 95% loan to value mortgages for new build houses and flats. The scheme will help up to 100,000 families and young people to buy their own home.

The Government are currently working with partners to complete the design of the scheme. Details on eligibility and the maximum eligible house price are still being finalised and we expect to be able to give more information over the coming months. Buy-to-let purchases will not be eligible under the scheme.

Non-domestic Rates

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the overall financial effect on local authorities of the reduction of business rate income arising from the outsourcing of local authority services to organisations with charitable status that are able to claim exemptions on these rates. [83514]

Robert Neill: In England, local authorities do not contribute to the cost of mandatory business rates reliefs, such as charity relief, and therefore there is no impact on authority finances.

Business rates policy in Wales is a devolved matter.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed increase in business rates on *(a)* retailers and *(b)* ambitions for growth in the economy. [82780]

Robert Neill: Business rates bills are capped by the previous September's Retail Price Index inflation rate. This Government have already doubled Small Business Rate Relief for two years—providing help to approximately half a million ratepayers—and we are waiving £175 million of backdated business rates demands levied on businesses, including some in ports. We need to balance any further support for business against the tough decisions needed to reduce the deficit that we have inherited from the last Administration.

Planning Permission

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether private sector organisations are entitled to vote in local referendums on local and neighbourhood plans. [79997]

Greg Clark: There are no provisions for referendums in relation to local plans. On neighbourhood planning, in the majority of cases only those entitled to vote in local elections would be able to vote in referendums. However, where a local council designates a neighbourhood area as a business neighbourhood area, non-domestic rate payers will also be allowed to vote in a separate referendum to local residents. In such cases, the Localism Act requires a local authority to put a neighbourhood plan into force where a majority of both voting residents and businesses support the plan.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution by the Minister for Decentralisation and Cities of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 128, *(a)* by when and *(b)* in what form he plans to set out transitional arrangements to assist local planning authorities in adjusting to changes in the planning system. [82302]

Greg Clark: As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 19 October, *Official Report*, column 65WS, the National Planning Policy Framework aims to strengthen local decision making and reinforce the importance of local plans. We will therefore work closely with local authorities to ensure that appropriate transitional arrangements are in place before the new Framework comes into force. The Government are committed to the publication of this final version of the Framework by 31 March 2012, but intend to do so well ahead of that time.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he intends to publish a revised draft of the National Planning Policy Framework for a second consultation. [82432]

Greg Clark: No. As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 65WS, we are carefully considering all of the submissions made during the 12-week consultation period on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. Having fully considered the suggestions made, the Government will then publish the revised text taking into account representations that have been made and a summary of responses to the consultation. The Government are committed to the publication of this final version of the framework by 31 March 2012, but intend to do so well ahead of that time.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the summary of consultation responses to the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [82434]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member my answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 661-62W.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 661-62W, on planning permission, if he will hold a public consultation on the revised text of the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [83056]

Greg Clark: No. As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 65WS, we are carefully considering all of the submissions made during the 12-week consultation period on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. Having fully considered the suggestions made, the Government will then publish the revised text taking into account representations that have been made and a summary of responses to the consultation. The Government are committed to the publication of this final version of the framework by 31 March 2012, but intend to do so well ahead of that time.

Planning Permission: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the amount of land planning permission was granted for in *(a)* Pendle constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last five years. [82907]

Robert Neill: The Department collects summary statistics on planning applications but these do not include information on amounts of land.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the amount of land in *(a)* Pendle constituency and *(b)* Lancashire that has planning approval but where construction had not commenced. [82908]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for City of Durham (Roberta Blackman-Woods), on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 664W. Information is not available in terms of amounts of land.

Property Development

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to tackle the practice of developers leaving land undeveloped. [82909]

Robert Neill: The Office of Fair Trading market study, Homebuilding in the UK (2008) did not find:

"any evidence that housebuilders have the ability to anti-competitively hoard land or own a large amount of land with planning permission on which they have not started to build."

In 'Laying the Foundations: a Housing Strategy for England' (November 2011) the Government set out an ambitious strategy to unlock the housing market and stimulate homebuilding. The actions include:

supporting a new mortgage indemnity scheme that will make it easier to secure mortgages on new homes;

launching a new £400 million 'Get Britain Building' investment fund to unlock progress on stalled sites; and

establishing a new £500 million Growing Places Fund which will support infrastructure that unblocks housing and economic growth.

Regional Planning and Development: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered bringing forward proposals to facilitate tax increment financing models in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England; and if he will make a statement. [83337]

Robert Neill: The Government have confirmed that we will introduce tax increment financing powers, enabling councils to borrow against future increases in business rates to fund the provision of infrastructure, and to unlock additional economic growth.

The Government's consultation on the local retention of business rates set out two broad options to enable the implementation of tax increment finance. This consultation closed on 24 October.

The Government will set out final proposals later this year, and will introduce the necessary legislation for the retention of business rates and tax increment financing through the forthcoming Local Government Finance Bill.

Right to Buy Scheme

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on rent levels for local authority homes of the planned increase in right to buy discounts. [82794]

Grant Shapps: Increasing right to buy discounts and reversing the last Government's policy of making cuts to the right to buy will have no effect on the social rents of any local authority tenant.

Trade Unions

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which trades unions receive *(a)* subscription and *(b)* political levy payments from his Department using a check-off arrangement; and whether his Department charges trades unions an administration fee for collecting trade unions subscriptions through its payroll; [82715]

(2) how many staff of his Department pay their trade union subscriptions to each union recognised by his Department using a check-off arrangement; and how many such payments involved payment of the political levy in the latest period for which figures are available. [82717]

Robert Neill: Prospect, PCS and the FDA trade unions receive subscription fees from the Department for Communities and Local Government using check-off arrangements. The following table shows the number of staff paid through these arrangements in October 2011. The Department does not charge an administration fee for collecting subscriptions through its payroll.

	Number
FDA	4
Prospect	13
PCS	771

As the payment of the levy is a matter between the individual and the trade union, this information is not held by the Department.

As I noted in my answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 867W, there is a lack of transparency on the political levy, as some trade unions fail to inform their members of the fact that they are being charged the levy when they join, and they make no reference of the right to opt-out on membership forms. As the deposited paper associated with that answer illustrates, these membership forms also act as the employee's authorisation for the union subscription to be deducted from the departmental payroll.

However, details of which trade unions have political funds and collect a political levy are publicly listed in the annual returns on the Certification Officer website:

http://www.certoffice.org/Nav/Trade-Unions/Active.aspx

Check-off is a voluntary arrangement, and employers have no statutory duty either to operate it at all, or to continue to do so having started. Employers may also choose to charge the union for the administration involved in providing the service of collection the union subscriptions.

Ministers are open to representations on whether an administration fee should be charged for collection of trade union subscriptions through the departmental payroll, or whether the check-off arrangements should operate at all, as opposed to the administration effectively being subsidised by taxpayers.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether full-time departmental trade union representatives employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are entitled to claim paid overtime from their employer. [82716]

Robert Neill: The general overtime provisions for the Department and its agencies is that overtime should be resorted to only in periods of exceptional pressure of work. Overtime must be authorised in advance. All excess working must comply with the requirements of the working time regulations.

This applies to all staff, including trade union representatives.

I am not aware of the Department's trade union representatives requesting or being granted any overtime.

EDUCATION

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78852]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 284W, to the hon. Member for Halton (Derek Twigg).

Special advisers in the Department for Education have not met Adam Werritty in an official capacity since May 2010.

Information relating to all the meetings held by officials is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Carers: Young People

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that young carers are in contact with their local authorities. [78571]

Tim Loughton: The Government's revised Carers Strategy, 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy', emphasises the importance of adult and children's services working together with the voluntary sector to identify and support young carers. Details are set out in 'Working Together to Support Young Carers' a memorandum of understanding agreed between the Associations of Directors of Adult and Children's Services, which local authorities are encouraged to adopt.

I wrote to all MPs and directors of children's services earlier this year to encourage them to continue to improve the support available to young carers. The Department has also funded the development of a new e-learning module for school staff and funded the Children's Society and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers to identify and share best practice and run training workshops for local services.

Child Protection

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance includes a response to issues of child neglect. [82731]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Government response to Professor's Eileen Munro's review of child protection committed to revising the statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children and the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families', by July 2012.

Evidence shows that preventative services do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services. The Government's vision for a child-centred system includes providing effective help when a problem arises at any stages in a child's life. Timeliness in the early identification of a child's needs and provision of help is key in providing the effective support that is needed. We are working closely with the Association of Directors of Children's Services to find the most appropriate route for local areas to identify, early, children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; provide sufficient and appropriate early help services for vulnerable children and families; and improve the effectiveness of multi-agency co-ordination and working.

The full revision to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' will address issues of neglect and the principles of effective multi-agency response which is critical to delivering timely and effective early help to improve outcomes for children and families. The Government have committed to work in partnership with the sector to revise 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and a full, formal consultation will commence from early 2012. A multi-disciplinary Professional Advisory Group has been convened and is advising on proposed revisions to the statutory guidance.

Parliamentary Questions: Special Advisers

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in his Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79570]

Tim Loughton: Ministerial clearance is always the final stage before a parliamentary question is answered.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many unpaid and expenses-only internships *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each public body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78371]

Tim Loughton: The Department took on five paid interns as part of the Cabinet Office Summer Diversity Internship programme and three unpaid expenses-only interns as part of a pilot for the Cabinet Office's new Social Mobility Internships. The Department does not fund any other unpaid, expenses-only internships, but each year it does offer a number of unpaid summer internship placements to graduates that are part of the Teach First Programme.

The Department does not manage nor does it hold records of internships programmes run by its arm's length bodies and such information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79568]

Tim Loughton: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will normally be preferable to provide an answer to a question late, rather than provide an incomplete answer.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

Month due	*On time*	*Five days late*	*Six to 10 days late*	*11 to 20 days late*	*21 to 30 days late*	*Over 30 days*
2010						
June	15	20	20	12	5	10
July	10	17	13	26	4	52
September	5	4	3	11	3	20
October	3	2	9	26	23	14
November	15	19	35	36	26	32
December	4	3	10	19	19	53
2011						
January	2	8	30	23	13	39
February	6	1	5	25	9	32
March	27	45	14	13	2	0
April	24	11	3	11	2	0
May	24	21	8	16	4	3
June	25	19	30	11	2	0
July	33	21	8	2	4	3
September	14	16	5	0	7	9
October	6	12	15	8	0	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79569]

Tim Loughton: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member, and ordinary parliamentary questions within five sitting days. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will normally be preferable to provide an answer to a question late, rather than provide an incomplete answer.

The Department for Education has received 4,765 written parliamentary questions for reply since May 2010. Of these, 232 ordinary written parliamentary questions and 57 named day parliamentary questions remained unanswered for a period of two months.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009/10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Education: Armed Forces

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the range and level of educational qualifications offered to armed forces recruits aged 16 to 18 and their conformity with the minimum standards recommended by the Wolf Review of Vocational Education. [81831]

Mr Gibb: No recent discussions have taken place between the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), on this issue. The Department is aware that the armed forces provide access to a range of general and vocational qualifications at different levels to those serving in the armed forces, including recruits aged 16 to 18.

The Wolf Review of Vocational Education outlined specific recommendations for 16 to 18-year-olds that included setting out general principles, rather than minimum standards, for the study programmes of 16 to 18-year-olds on full-time vocational courses. It is recognised that arrangements for 16 to 18-year-olds on work-based programmes, including those in the armed forces, will be different from those in full-time or part-time education. We are currently consulting on the principles that will guide the provision of study programmes for 16 to 19-year-olds, including for those young people on work-based programmes, and we will set out our response in spring 2012.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011. [76793]

Tim Loughton: Between the beginning of January and end of July 2011, the amount paid to run the Department for Education's Legal Directorate was £1,980,137.

In the same period, the Department for Education paid £663,048 for external legal advice.

Runaway Children

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that there is a national network to provide assistance for children who run away. [82337]

Tim Loughton: It is the responsibility of local authorities to provide services and targeted support to safeguard the young and the vulnerable, including those who run away from home or care.

The Department takes this issue very seriously and will be revising the statutory guidance for local authorities on children who run away or go missing from home or care to ensure that it is easily accessible and, most importantly, helpful for schools, local authorities and children's services.

The Department will also work to ensure that there is a clear distinction in the upcoming Missing Persons Strategy about the situation of children and young people who run away. In addition, the 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan' published on 23 November, highlights that certain factors in a child's life, such as running away from home or experience of domestic violence, can make them more vulnerable to being sexually exploited and should be safeguarded.

Teachers: Pensions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what meetings he has had with the *(a)* National Union of Teachers, *(b)* National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, *(c)* National Association of Head Teachers, *(d)* Association of Schools and College Leaders, *(e)* Association of Teachers and Lecturers and *(f)* University and College Union in the last three months; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [78763]

Tim Loughton: In the last three months the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has met the organisations listed above as follows:

Date of meeting	*Organisations attended*
23 August 2011	National Union of Teachers
	National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers
	National Association of Head Teachers
	Association of School and College Leaders
	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
28 September 2011	National Union of Teachers
	National Association of Head Teachers
	Association of School and College Leaders
	University and College Union
12 October 2011	National Union of Teachers
	National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers
	National Association of Head Teachers
	Association of School and College Leaders
	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
	University and College Union

The Department does not intend to provide minutes of these meetings as to do so may inhibit free and frank discussions in the future.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the finding of the British Chambers of Commerce report, entitled Flying in the Face of Jobs and Growth, what assessment he has made of the effect of increasing levels of air passenger duty on *(a)* businesses and *(b)* the economy; [82413]

(2) if he will assess the merits of the proposal by the British Chambers of Commerce that overall tax revenues from air passenger duty should be offset against revenues to be received as a result of the entry of aviation into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in 2012. [82410]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr Donohoe) on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 501W.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in air passenger duty on *(a)* businesses and *(b)* the economy. [82934]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Budget launched a consultation on air passenger duty. A large number of responses to the consultation were submitted, including the views of business. The Government will publish their response later this autumn.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to phase out air passenger duty as revenue from aviation entering the EU Emissions Trading Scheme starts to be received by HM Treasury. [83058]

Miss Chloe Smith: Air passenger duty is fundamentally a revenue-raising duty which makes an important contribution to the public finances. In meeting its revenue requirements, the Government consider aviation taxes in the round.

The Government will issue their response to their consultation on the structure of air passenger duty on 6 December.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* level of receipts from air passenger duty and *(b)* revenue from the entry of aviation into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in 2012-13. [83274]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for Budget Responsibility revenue forecasts for all air passenger duty and EU Emissions Trading Scheme receipts were set out on page 92 of the Budget 2011 document.

Autumn Statement

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish alongside his Autumn Statement a document assessing the impact upon Britain's economic competitiveness of each measure announced in the Statement. [83248]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Autumn Statement is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne's) response to the Economic and Fiscal Outlook which will be published by the Office for Budget Responsibility on 29 November.

In line with their commitment to transparency, the Government now publishes detailed information on measures which will have a fiscal impact, including in its "policy costings" documents, which are available on the HM Treasury website.

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential contribution of disposal of the shares held by UK Financial Investments in Lloyds Banking Group and RBS Group to reduction of the UK's national debt during this Parliament. [83199]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments is responsible for managing the Government's investments in Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) on an arm's length and commercial basis; and for developing and executing a strategy for disposing of the investments in an orderly and active way.

UKFI's mandate means that these objectives are pursued within the context of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer, paying due regard to financial stability and to acting in a way which promotes competition. UKFI currently continue to look at the full range of alternatives for divestment.

Banks: Loans

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of banks regarding the costs of home loans. [83372]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Banks: Lending

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the new loans issued by Project Merlin banks was lent to small and medium enterprises in the third quarter of 2011. [82403]

Mr Hoban: On 9 February, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks intend to lend £76 billion of new credit to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in 2011. This is a 15% increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

It is encouraging that by the third quarter the banks have loaned £157 billion to UK businesses—20% more than they did at this time last year, despite difficult global economic conditions. While they have also loaned £56 billion to SMEs—10% more than they did at this time in 2010—the Government are clear that they must do more to meet their commitment for the full year.

Arch Cru

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what calculation Capita applied in reaching the compensation figure offered to CF Arch Cru investors. [82771]

Mr Hoban: In June 2011 the Financial Services Authority (FSA) agreed a compensation package with Capita Financial Management (CFM), BNY Mellon Trust and Depositary (UK) Ltd (BNYM T&D) and HSBC Bank plc (HSBC) of £54 million.

The FSA expects that investors who accept the compensation offer will receive approximately 70%, on average, of the funds' net asset value as at the date of suspension. This takes into account the compensation package (£54 million), the distributions already paid to investors (£54 million) and the residual value of the funds (£148 million).

Child Care Tax Credit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families that will lose child care support if the minimum number of hours worked child care to qualify for help with childcare costs is increased. [82832]

Mr Gauke: No estimates have been made as there are no plans to increase the minimum number of hours worked to qualify for help with child care costs. Under current arrangements, those eligible for working tax credit must work a minimum of 16 hours a week in order to qualify for support with child care costs.

Under universal credit, to be introduced over the next two Parliaments, the Government will extend support with child care costs to those working fewer than 16 hours, allowing 80,000 additional families, who are currently not eligible for this support, to receive help with child care costs. This will give second earners and lone parents, typically women, a stronger incentive to work.

Child Tax Credit: Labour Market

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects of levels of child tax credit on the rate of female participation in the labour market. [82369]

Mr Gauke: The Government model cumulative impacts of policy changes rather than assessing the effects of individual welfare measures. This modelling is more accurate as it takes into account other measures which may also affect certain groups.

As part of Budget 2011, the Government published analysis which includes modelled impacts of policy changes on gains from work, incentives to enter work and incentives to progress in work. Although this did not model impacts by gender, it did include case studies of lone parents and second earners in couples, which tend to be women. This can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

Climate Change: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what agreements on climate change in preparation for the UN conference in Durban were made at the EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council meeting on 8 November 2011. [83057]

Miss Chloe Smith: The EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council meeting of 8 November 2011 agreed conclusions on a number of matters, including Fast Start Climate Finance. These documents are available in full at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/125976.pdf

Corporation Tax: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies in Northern Ireland paid corporation tax in the latest period for which figures are available. [82002]

Mr Gauke: Around 11,000 companies based in Northern Ireland had positive corporation tax liabilities for 2008-09, the latest period for which figures are available. This figure excludes Great Britain-based companies with a presence in Northern Ireland.

Credit Unions: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take account of representations made by the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland regarding the issues facing credit unions in Northern Ireland prior to the transfer of regulations on 31 March 2012. [83371]

Miss Chloe Smith: The joint consultation on the regulatory regime for Northern Ireland credit unions after their transfer closed on 31 October 2011. The Government will issue their response in a joint policy statement with the Financial Services Authority in early December. The response will take note of the representations received during the consultation, including representations on the transitional period.

Debit Cards: Fees and Charges

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the findings of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on the Which? super-complaint on card payment surcharges; and what steps he plans to take to implement the OFT's recommendations. [83038]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 128W.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82536]

Miss Chloe Smith: During the 12-month period ended 31 October 2011, 32 internal audits were completed within HM Treasury. There were no internal audits of the Treasury's sole NDPB, the Royal Mint Advisory Committee.

Security Vetting

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what company or Government service is used to undertake security vetting at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level in his Department. [77913]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury use Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services as a third party provider to undertake all national security vetting for HM Treasury, at *(a)* counter terrorist check, *(b)* security check and *(c)* developed vetting level.

Economic Policy

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to regional economic and employment conditions in developing his economic strategy; and if he will make a statement. [82911]

Miss Chloe Smith: In the decade prior to the 2008 financial crisis, economic growth was unbalanced across the UK, concentrated in the south-east, with some parts of the country increasingly reliant on jobs funded by public spending.

The Government have set out in the 'Plan for Growth' the need to return the UK economy to sustainable economic growth that is more balanced across the UK and sectors.

The Government have taken key initiatives to support growth locally and in the regions, by introducing 22 new enterprise zones in England; allocating £450 million of investment in the first round and £950 million in the second round of the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund; providing £500 million to local enterprise partnerships through the Growing Places Fund and considering powerful incentives for local authorities to go for growth through the Local Government Resource Review.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments had been made under the Equitable Life Payment Scheme by 31 October 2011. [82782]

Mr Hoban: The scheme will be publishing a report in due course on the volumes and values of payments made.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of payments that will be made in each of the first three years of the Equitable Life Payment Scheme. [82783]

Mr Hoban: The scheme will make payments according to the funds allocated to it in the spending review in October last year—£500 million is available to make payments to policyholders in 2011-12, £300 million in 2012-13 and £200 million in 2013-14.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what calculations his Department makes to ascertain the effect of levels of fuel duty on *(a)* young people and *(b)* rural dwellers; [82675]

(2) with reference to paragraph C.57 of page 233 of the 2009 Budget Report, how much the Exchequer received from fuel duty in each month since April 2008; [82678]

(3) what calculations his Department has made to ascertain the effect increasing fuel prices have on *(a)* the level of inflation, *(b)* the economy and *(c)* levels of employment. [82713]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government's taxation decisions, including on fuel duty, support their objective to achieve strong, sustainable growth. Budget 2011 reduced fuel duty by 1p per litre, abolished the fuel duty escalator and replaced it with a fair fuel stabiliser. As of 1 April 2011, young people and rural dwellers could have benefited from average pump prices being 6p per litre lower as a result of these changes compared to the previous Government's fuel duty plans.

Fuel price effects on inflation, the economy and employment are assessed by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of its economic and fiscal forecasts:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk

The OBR's next Economic and fiscal outlook will be published on 29 November 2011.

Fuel duty receipts are published in table 3 of the UK Trade Info Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Financial Services: Regulation

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of the retail distribution review on the number of independent financial advisers in 2011-12. [82373]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Financial Services Authority (FSA), an independent body, is introducing the Retail Distribution Review (RDR). The FSA has consulted extensively on the RDR since 2006 and, in accordance with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, has published cost-benefit analyses of the proposals.

The FSA has also published analysis of the impact of its proposals on different sectors of the industry alongside policy documents, including research by NMG Consulting which suggested that 10% of independent financial advisers would leave the industry as a result of the RDR changes. This information is available on the FSA's website.

The FSA has not published research on the effect of the RDR on adviser numbers in 2011-12, prior to RDR implementation.

Import Duties: Israel

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what volume by *(a)* value and *(b)* tonnage of fresh fruit and vegetables imported from Israel import duty was paid in each of the last five years; and how much duty was paid (i) in total, (ii) for produce originating within the 1967 borders of Israel and (iii) for produce originating in Israeli settlements. [82409]

Mr Gauke: The information in respect of imports of fresh fruit and vegetables in Tariff Chapters 7 and 8 declared as originating in Israel in each of the last four years is as follows:

	Value of produce (£)	*Weight of produce (tonne)*	*Customs duty paid (£)*
2008	79,181,903	170,481	2,247,244
2009	72,495,444	147,671	2,269,961
2010	67,548,353	117,991	1,589,592
2011 (to date)	60,297,613	98,665	1,194,157

The HM Revenue and Customs import declaration database holds information for the past four years only. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the information requested for the full five years.

The Government are unable to provide the information requested in respect of produce originating in the Israeli settlements. The settlements do not have a separate country code. Consequently, it is not possible for HMRC to produce statistics for the settlements.

Income Tax: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has met Ministers of the Scottish Government to discuss his proposals to set the rate of Scottish income tax; and when the last such meeting took place. [83064]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Under the terms of the Scotland Bill, the Scottish Parliament—not the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne)—will set the new Scottish rate of income tax.

Treasury Ministers hold regular meetings with Ministers from the Scottish Government on a range of issues affecting our respective Governments, including financial powers.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions officials from his Department have met *(a)* officials from the Scotland Office and *(b)* officials of the Scottish Government to discuss the inclusion of a 'no detriment' mechanism in the proposed Scottish income tax powers; and when the (i) first and (ii) most recent such meeting took place. [83066]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* HMT officials hold regular meetings with officials on the Scottish Government on a range of issues affecting the respective Governments, including financial powers.

Inflation

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on the Monetary Policy Committee's decision not to prevent an increase in inflation to over two per cent. [83373]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Chancellor of the Exchequer reaffirmed the independent Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) inflation target of 2% at Budget 2011. The remit for the MPC recognises that shocks and disturbances can cause actual inflation to deviate from the target. In such circumstances, attempts to keep inflation at target may cause undesirable volatility in output. In periods when inflation moves away from the target by more than one percentage point, the remit requires the Governor to write an open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain why. These letters, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's replies, can be found on the HM Treasury website. The most recent exchange of letters was published on 15 November 2011.

Money Advice Service: Pay

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of remuneration is paid to *(a)* the chief executive and *(b)* each director of the Money Advice Service. [81244]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Government are committed to public sector pay restraint, and believe that senior managers should show leadership in this area. The Chief Secretary approves any civil service appointments in areas under ministerial control for those earning over £142,500.

The Financial Services Authority is, however, responsible for appointing the chief executive and board directors of the Money Advice Service and setting the terms of the appointments.

The Money Advice Service's published annual report for the year ended 31 March 2011 sets out that the total board directors' remuneration was £440,992 in 2010-11. The highest paid director, the chief executive, received total remuneration of £349,341 in 2010-11. The board currently comprises the chair, appointed in September 2010, the chief executive, appointed in May 2010, and six other non-executive directors, of which five were appointed in January 2011 and one in April 2010. The chair receives total remuneration of £84,000 per annum and the six non-executive board directors each receive total remuneration of £24,500 per annum.

Northern Rock

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on advice from external suppliers on the sale of Northern Rock. [83537]

Miss Chloe Smith: Throughout the Northern Rock plc sale process UK Financial Investments Ltd and HM Treasury have been clear in dealings with third party advisers that fee costs will be kept to a minimum to ensure that the transaction delivers the best value for the taxpayer as shareholder.

The deal is expected to complete on 1 January 2012, pending European Commission (EC) merger clearance and Financial Services Authority (FSA) approval.

There is still further work to be done on closing the transaction. Appropriate disclosures will be made in due course on fees incurred.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he commissioned any advice on a member buy-out option for Northern Rock. [83538]

Miss Chloe Smith: A full range of options for returning Northern Rock plc to the private sector was evaluated by HM Treasury, UK Financial Investments Ltd and independent advisors including sale to an existing mutual or through a standalone remutualisation of the company.

Ultimately, it was decided that the sale of Northern Rock plc would generate the best value for the taxpayer. The sale process was open, transparent and competitive and allowed all parties including mutuals to participate.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions his Department had with the European Commission on the extension of the deadline for the sale of Northern Rock; [83539]

(2) whether his Department will discuss the provision of the new convertible debt support provided in the sale of Northern Rock with the EU Commission. [83462]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury has carried out appropriate dialogue with the European Commission in relation to the sale of Northern Rock plc.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the proportion of *(a)* businesses operating PAYE which make all their salary payments directly into bank accounts through the BACS system and *(b)* individuals in PAYE whose salaries are paid directly into their bank accounts through the BACS system. [82388]

Mr Gauke: The Payments Council reports that 90% of salary payments are made via BACS Direct Credit. That figure includes payments made by remote banking methods such as internet banking. HMRC estimate that around 100,000 organisations make payments subject to PAYE using a BACS Service User Number and that those payments represent approximately 80% of payments to individuals in PAYE.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he expects to announce the outcome of his review of the Private Finance Initiative. [82672]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has announced the Government's intention to reform the private finance initiative (PFI) with the aid of a broad based engagement process with interested parties, led by the Treasury, to bring forward proposals for a new approach in using the private sector in the delivery of public assets.

The Government will be launching a call for evidence on 1 December that aims to capture the learning and lessons of the past 20 years of PFI.

Following the closure of the call for evidence, the evidence gathered may be used to inform policy development and ministerial decisions on the delivery models to be used for future public projects, assets and related services. A date has not been set for announcing the outcome of the engagement process.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reform research and development tax credits by allowing businesses to offset the cost of research and development against tax. [83186]

Mr Gauke: The Government have recently consulted on the case for introducing an 'above the line' R&D tax credit and is currently considering the responses.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many compliance officers were employed by HM Revenue and Customs in March *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and how many he expects to be employed in March 2012; [83478]

(2) how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were employed in anti-evasion and avoidance roles in March *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and how many he expects to be employed in such activities in March 2012. [83479]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not employ people under the role profiles of anti-evasion or avoidance. Staff are engaged in compliance activities and this can cover a wide range of roles. The main business area to carry out compliance-related work is enforcement and compliance. In March 2010, enforcement and compliance employed 26,863 staff, in March 2011 25,475 and 26,950 are expected to be employed in March 2012.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the previously announced redeployment of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff to new anti-evasion and avoidance jobs have been redeployed; and from which departments with HMRC were such staff moved. [83480]

Mr Gauke: The redeployment of HMRC staff into new anti-evasion and avoidance roles is on-going and will continue throughout the whole of the spending review period. The staff redeployed will come from across all of HMRC's business streams.

Revenue and Customs: Petitions

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seven day winding-up petitions have been issued by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [82631]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is as follows;

	Lodged	*Wound up*
2009-10	609	384
2008-09	417	285
2007-08	278	193
2006-07	294	180
2005-06	198	118

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who is responsible for the oversight of the investigative activities of HM Revenue and Customs carried out in Scotland. [82700]

Mr Gauke: The arrangements for oversight of HMRC civil investigations in Scotland are the same as those in the rest of the UK which are set out in the Department's published (and recently refreshed) Litigation and Settlement Strategy.

Revenue and Customs: Taxation

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many meetings HM Revenue and Customs staff have had with companies in Scotland in the last five years; and what proportion of such meetings were with companies *(a)* in arrears and *(b)* with payment plans in place; [82630]

(2) how many times HM Revenue and Customs has changed the terms of payment plans for companies in arrears in the last year; [82632]

(3) how many Scottish companies in arrears to HM Revenue and Customs went into receivership in each of the last five years. [82636]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department has awarded to Serco since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each such contract. [83052]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury has not awarded any contracts to Serco since May 2010.

Taxation: Business

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse that could be made by businesses as a result of closer integration of the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions in each financial year to 2019-20. [83482]

Mr Gauke: At Budget 2011 the Government announced their intention to look at ways to integrate the operation of income tax and national insurance contributions. Two of the key objectives for the work are to reduce administrative burdens on employers and cut operational costs for Government.

Following a call for evidence over the summer, the Government have recently set out their next steps—"Integrating the operation of income tax and National Insurance contributions: next steps", published on 14 November and available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_income_nics.htm

A series of technical working groups are being established to develop options for reform. Subject to the outcome of this work, at Budget 2012 the Government will provide an update on progress, including the timetable for further consultation.

Consistent with this Government's new approach to tax policy-making, a full assessment of the impacts of any proposals will be published alongside the appropriate consultations. This will include estimates for the impact of reform on businesses and the public sector.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wirral West of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-44W, on taxation: environment protection, what assessment he has made of the effect of measures to mitigate the effect of the carbon price floor on energy intensive industries on the net present value of the policy on carbon floor price; and if he will make a statement. [82513]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Government have committed to come forward with a package of measures for energy intensive industries by the end of the year.

Measures will be subject to state aid considerations and need to demonstrate value for money for the taxpayer.

Taxation: Gambling

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue from tax receipts lost as a result of remote betting operators being based outside the UK. [83344]

Miss Chloe Smith: General betting duty is levied on bookmakers' profits and typically raises between £300 million and £400 million per annum. However, HMRC does not record yield from remote betting separately from general betting duty, so there is no estimate of the amount of revenue from tax receipts lost as a result of remote betting operators being based outside the UK.

Taxation: Tourism

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the British Hospitality Association's proposals for the tax regime for the hospitality sector. [82557]

Mr Gauke: Assessments of the impact of the BHA proposals predict a loss in revenue to the Exchequer of well in excess of £1 billion in the first year alone. The BHA argues that a reduction in VAT on tourism would pay for itself over time and increase growth and employment. Their case does not take account of the impact of such a cut on the economy as a whole, or the significant additional taxation or borrowing needed to fund the cut. Higher interest rates and falling international confidence would undermine the recovery and have an adverse impact on families and small businesses, including businesses in the tourism sector.

VAT: Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the rise in value added tax on employment levels in the creative industries in each of the next four years. [83014]

Mr Gauke: No assessment has been made as the data to make such an assessment are not collected.

VAT: Charities

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending exemption from VAT to charities providing transport services in vehicles of less than 10 seats. [82324]

Mr Gauke: The supply of domestic passenger transport in a vehicle that has at least 10 seats, including those for the driver and crew, is zero-rated for VAT.

No estimates have been made of the cost of extending this zero rate as long-standing formal agreements with our European partners prevent us from unilaterally extending the scope of our existing zero rates or introducing new zero rates.

VAT: Sports

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the revenue that will be raised by the application of the standard rate of VAT to grassroots sports; [83379]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of his decision to apply the standard rate of VAT to grassroots sports on levels of participation in grassroots sports; [83380]

(3) what discussions he has had with organisers of community sports on his decision to apply the standard rate of VAT to grassroots sports. [83381]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' view is that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT at the standard rate. As a number of providers have been treating these supplies as exempt from VAT, HMRC issued further guidance in February 2011, confirming their view that the provision of sports league services is liable to VAT. There has been no change to the VAT status of sports clubs.

Working Tax Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 645W, on working tax credit, whether he has estimated the number of households that will lose support for childcare as a result of his proposal to increase the hours requirement for working tax credit. [83343]

Mr Gauke: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (Jonathan Reynolds) on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1090W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice she received on introducing minimum alcohol pricing. [78725]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The legal advice which the Government have received on this issue is subject to legal privilege. We do not, therefore, believe it appropriate to disclose this advice (or any summary of it).

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has assessed the likely effects of any ban on the sale of below-cost alcohol on levels of *(a)* excessive and *(b)* underage alcohol consumption. [82404]

James Brokenshire: The impact assessment for banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT will be published by the Home Office in the new year. This will assess the impact of excessive alcohol consumption on harmful and hazardous drinking groups who are most likely to be affected by the ban. The Home Office carefully considered the potential impact on underage and excessive alcohol consumption when considering options for the ban.

Animal Experiments

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to streamline existing processes involved in licence approval for experimentation on animals during the implementation of directive 2010/63/EU; and if so, how it plans to do so while safeguarding animal welfare. [82709]

Lynne Featherstone: We plan to remove unnecessary bureaucracy where it still exists, building on the significant improvements we have already made in the day to day implementation of current processes. We will focus on simplifying the detail of personal licences and on making further improvements to the project licence application process and the format of the project licence. What we do not want to do is weaken United Kingdom standards of animal welfare and protection. This will be a central consideration in taking this work forward in consultation with interested groups.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to ensure the end of testing of household products on animals in the UK. [83219]

Lynne Featherstone: The commitment to end the testing of household products on animals will be implemented using the licensing powers provided under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 by adding a condition to relevant project licences. We are currently consulting with establishments holding relevant project licences to confirm the economic impact and with establishments, relevant trade bodies and other stakeholders to agree a working definition of household product to accompany the condition.

We are aiming to implement the delivery arrangements from 1 January 2012.

Arrest Warrants: Convictions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a non-UK EU citizen extradited from another EU member state to the UK under a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) has been convicted of the offence for which he or she was extradited for each type of offence in each year since the EAW became operational; and if she will make a statement. [81601]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European Arrest Warrants (EAWs) in the UK. SOCA's involvement in an EAW case ceases at the point of surrender and SOCA is not routinely informed of the outcome of any subsequent criminal proceedings.

To identify cases where an individual has been surrendered to the UK and SOCA has been informed of a conviction would require a manual examination of all case files, incurring a disproportionate cost.

Arrest Warrants: EU Nationals

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times her Department has used the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) to extradite a non-UK EU citizen resident in another member state to stand trial or complete a detention period in each year since the EAW has been operational to date for each type of offence; and if she will make a statement. [81230]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European Arrest Warrants (EAWs). Information is held on Part 1 cases (persons wanted from the UK by another member state) and Part 3 cases (persons wanted by the UK from another member state).

Information on the number of individuals surrendered to the UK under an EAW by offence type and by nationality is only available from April 2009 due to a change in the way data were recorded from this date. For cases before this date, a manual examination of files would have to take place. This would incur disproportionate cost.

In 2009-10, 24 surrenders took place of a non-UK EU national from another EU member state to the UK. A breakdown of the offences and nationalities is shown in the following table.

2009-10

	Offence										
Nationality	*Fraud*	*GBH*	*Rape*	*Child Sex Offences*	*Robbery*	*Drugs*	*Murder*	*Theft*	*Immigration*	*Other*	*Total*
Belgium	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cyprus	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Denmark	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ireland	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Netherlands	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Poland	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	6
Portugal	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Romania	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	6
Total	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	24

In 2010-11 47 surrenders took place of a non-UK EU national from another EU member state to the UK. A breakdown of the offences and nationalities is shown in the following table.

2010-11

	Offence										
Nationality	*Fraud*	*GBH*	*Rape*	*Child Sex Offences*	*Robbery*	*Drugs*	*Murder*	*Theft*	*Money laundering*	*Other*	*Total*
Belgium	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Czech Republic	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Estonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
France	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Ireland	1	1	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	2	10
Italy	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Lithuania	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4
Malta	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Netherlands	—	1	—	—	—	10	—	1	1	—	13
Poland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Portugal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Romania	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Spain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	10	5	2	4	2	11	4	3	1	6	47

Due to the way that the data are recorded, it is not possible for these figures to be broken down by the number returned to stand trial or complete a detention period in each year without a manual examination of each individual case file. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Asylum

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy cases concern asylum seekers resident in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency who are not (i) awaiting prosecution, (ii) awaiting removal and (iii) subject to ongoing litigation. [83177]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* A total of 15 people are resident in Peterborough constituency who do not meet the criteria under (i), (ii) or (iii) above. A total of five people are resident in North West Cambridgeshire constituency who do not meet the criteria under (i), (ii) or (iii) above. These data are sourced from a local management team and should be treated as provisional.

Civil Partnerships

Mr Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many responses the Government Equalities Office received to its consultation Civil partnerships on religious premises: A consultation which closed on 23 June 2011; and how many of those responses *(a)* supported the Government's proposals in full, *(b)* opposed some aspects of the Government's proposals and *(c)* opposed the Government's proposals altogether. [82736]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Government Equalities Office received 1,617 responses to the consultation on implementing section 202 of the Equality Act 2010, which removes the ban on civil partnership registrations being held on religious premises. Given that section 202 was passed in both Houses on a

free vote, the consultation concerned the practical changes necessary for this provision and not whether to implement this legislation.

Of the 1,617 responses, 343 responses were on the official pro forma. The official pro forma sought the views of respondents on these practical changes and did not provide an opportunity to establish numbers supporting the overall proposals. It is, therefore, not possible to respond with precise figures on how many of these respondents supported or opposed the Government's overall proposals. The remaining 1,274 were responses by e-mail or letter and while the Government noted that a large number of these individuals opposed the principle of implementing section 202, it remains committed to taking this important step for religious freedom and LGB rights. The Government published their response to the consultation on 2 November which included a summary of responses received.

Cleveland Constabulary

Sir Stuart Bell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers and staff from the North Yorkshire Constabulary have been involved in the investigation into the affairs of Cleveland Constabulary from the time the terms of reference for a full investigation were agreed with Cleveland police authority on 25 August 2011; and if she will make a statement. [83254]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold this information centrally.

Sir Stuart Bell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the expected cost to Cleveland police authority is of the ongoing investigation into the affairs of Cleveland Constabulary in each month from November 2011 to March 2012; and if she will make a statement; [83255]

(2) what proportion of the likely costs of investigations into the affairs of Cleveland Constabulary from 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2012 are to be borne by her Department; and if she will make a statement; [83256]

(3) what the cost to the Cleveland police authority has been of the investigation into the affairs of Cleveland Constabulary between May 2010 and 1 November 2011; and if she will make a statement. [83253]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Cleveland police have indicated that they plan to apply for special grant support for the costs associated with the investigation involving their former chief constable and deputy chief constable. We have not yet received a formal application, but understand that they expect costs of between £2 million and £3 million. Once received, we will properly assess any formal application for funding against the special grant criteria and consider the appropriate level of Government support.

Sir Stuart Bell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which officer is presently appointed as senior investigating officer into the investigation of the affairs of Cleveland Constabulary; and if she will make a statement. [83257]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Keith Bristow was appointed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to oversee the investigation by North Yorkshire police in relation to current and past members and officers of the Cleveland police authority and Cleveland police; he remains in charge of the investigation. Until September this year, the senior investigating officer for this investigation was a member of the North Yorkshire police. The current senior investigating officer for the investigation is a member of Warwickshire police.

Sir Stuart Bell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the Senior Investigating Officer was appointed to oversee the initial enquiries into the affairs of Cleveland constabulary authorised by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary; and if she will make a statement. [83189]

Nick Herbert: Keith Bristow, as chief constable of Warwickshire police, was appointed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to oversee the investigation by North Yorkshire police in relation to current and past members and officers of the Cleveland Police Authority and Cleveland police; he remains in charge of that investigation. Until September this year the senior investigating officer for this investigation was a member of North Yorkshire police. The current senior investigating officer is a member of Warwickshire police.

Community Crimefighting Fund

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the Community Crimefighting Fund she expects to be spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82773]

James Brokenshire: The Communities Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund is open to applications from voluntary and community sector organisations across England and Wales until 1 December 2011 and is worth £5 million in 2011-12, with a further £5 million earmarked for 2012-13. While the fund remains open to bids, and until grants have been agreed and awarded, no figures of the geographical distribution of funds can be provided.

Cybercrime

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to prevention of and mitigation against cyber security incidents in 2011-12. [81538]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for cyber security.

This Government have recognised the real and increasing risk to the UK's national security from cyber attack and assessed cyber attacks as a Tier 1 threat in the National Security Strategy. This is why we have put in place a £650 million, four-year National Cyber Security Programme between 2011 and 2014.

This funding is intended to transform the Government's response to cyber threats, and has been allocated to those Departments and agencies that have key roles to play.

The Office for Cyber Security and Information Assurance supports the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the National Security Council in providing strategic direction and co-ordination to enhance cyber security and information assurance in the UK.

We published the new Cyber Security Strategy on 25 November which sets out in more detail specific measures to prevent and mitigate against cyber security incidents affecting the UK.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports her Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82995]

Damian Green: The number of published leaflets, posters or reports, and the cost, publisher and designer of each, is not information which is either centrally held or readily collated so could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

However, from May 2010 to April 2011, the Home Office spent £289,576 through the Central Office of Information on publications including leaflets, posters and reports. From April to October 2011, the Home Office has spent £120,727 on publications through the Home Office Publications, Print and Design Shared Service. Some Home Office teams may have used other suppliers during this period, but this information could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on cancellation fees in respect of *(a)* scheduled air flights and *(b)* charter flights to carry out deportations in each of the last 24 months. [80334]

Damian Green: Further to my reply of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 180-81W, relating to cancellation fees in relation to scheduled flights, the UK Border Agency now calculates total losses as a result of cancelled scheduled flights, including all ticket costs and fees and all ticket types. The following table therefore updates the previous data provided and new data to August 2011, which are the latest available. Data prior to May 2010 are not available.

	£
2010	
May	202,416.02
June	220,743.20
July	195,026.38
August	186,741.43
September	215,684.71
October	235,698.91
November	203,486.29
December	260,120.23
2011	
January	228,540.20
February	158,840.99
March	171,940.61
April	112,258.42
May	179,219.94
June	170,736.81
July	165,981.27
August	155,938.47
September	112,570.84
Total	3,175,944.72

These figures do not include refunds due to the agency which have yet to be provided and so they may decrease as refunds are received. The figures represent only part of the overall spend and, since September 2010, the UK Border Agency has used 23,072 tickets for returns that departed as planned.

The UK Border Agency spent £178,905 in the last 24 months on cancelled chartered flights: £136,960 was incurred in April 2010 and £41,945 in September 2011. These data update previous costs released in September 2010 and include refunds which the agency has since recovered from its suppliers.

None of these figures constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Drinking Banning Orders

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drinking banning orders were issued in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 to date. [81088]

James Brokenshire: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 14W.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent the admission of bogus students. [80730]

Damian Green: A range of recent reforms are reducing abuse of the student visa regime. These include:

new English language requirements for students;

new higher sponsorship and educational quality requirements;

tougher requirements to test students can support themselves financially;

tougher requirements on certain courses such as ACCA;

restricting work entitlements to those studying at higher educational institutions (HEI) and publicly funded further education colleges only;

restricting sponsorship of dependants to those studying at postgraduate level at an HEI on a course lasting 12 months or longer, and Government sponsored students on a course lasting six months or longer; and

encouraging students to leave promptly after their studies, through restricting the time that can be spent in the student route and ensuring that only the brightest and best stay on to work.

Further information on these measures can be found in "Student Visas: Statement of Intent and Transitional Measures", published on 31 March 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases immigration judges have highlighted a lack of security in admitting bogus students by the UK Border Agency. [80768]

Damian Green: Information on the number of cases in which immigration judges have highlighted a lack of security in admitting bogus students by the UK Border Agency is not available. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files.

Extradition: EU Nationals

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many non-UK EU citizens resident in another EU member state were extradited from that member state to the UK to face criminal prosecution in each of the 10 years prior to the introduction of the European Arrest Warrant, by type of offence; and if she will make a statement; [81576]

(2) how many non-UK EU citizens resident in another EU member state were extradited from that member state to the UK to *(a)* stand trial and *(b)* complete a detention period for each offence in each of the 10 years prior to the introduction of the European Arrest Warrant; and if she will make a statement. [81600]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The nationality of persons subject to extradition requests to the UK was not centrally recorded by the Home Office prior to 2010. Providing the figures requested for 1994 to 2003 would, therefore, incur disproportionate cost, as it would require a manual examination of Home Office files.

Health: Animal Testing

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer to Baroness Parminter of 4 October 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column 1014, on health: animal testing, what her policy is on the transposition of EU directive 2010/63/EU into UK law. [83532]

Lynne Featherstone: The new European directive provides a valuable and timely opportunity to update UK legislation governing experiments on animals, to confirm the best aspects of current regulation and to make improvements where we can do better. It will also help us to promote the development of alternatives and allow us to remove unnecessary bureaucracy where it still exists, building on the significant improvements we have already made in the day to day implementation of current regulations while maintaining our high welfare standards.

Licensing Laws

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of current licensing laws; and if she will make a statement. [83084]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Government have moved swiftly to both assess the effectiveness of the current alcohol licensing laws and take action to improve them. The 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' consultation was held between 8 July and 28 September 2010. It requested views on the alcohol-related commitments we made in the coalition agreement, in particular, on how best to "overhaul the Licensing Act to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems". The Government's response and an analysis of the consultation were published on 30 November 2010. The resulting changes to the Licensing Act 2003 have been delivered by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. They rebalance the current licensing laws in favour of local communities, and enable them to tackle crime and disorder.

Members: Correspondence

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend of 12 October 2011, reference MM/DH/12/10/2011. [82974]

Lynne Featherstone: I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 22 November 2011. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Metal Theft

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to complete her consultation on measures to combat metal theft. [79467]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* Discussions are continuing across Government on measures to tackle metal theft.

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she can take to empower the police to act against scrap metal merchants who purchase stolen metal. [79662]

James Brokenshire: Action against scrap metal merchants who purchase stolen metal is a matter for individual chief constables. The Home Office is working with police forces through the Association of Chief Police Officers to tackle metal theft. In addition, the Government are looking at what more can be done.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 940W, on metals: theft, on what date the meeting between representatives of the British Transport Police and the Minister for Crime Prevention took place. [83239]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The meeting took place on 31 January 2011. Ministers have had a number of meetings with the British Transport Police on metal theft since January 2011.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have attended of the ACPO Conductive Metal Theft Working Group. [83265]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Home Office is represented at the Association of Chief Police Officers Conductive Metal Theft Working Group by officials. Ministers do not attend.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will re-evaluate the 2009 pilot scheme to tackle metal theft. [83266]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Home Office is in discussion with the Association of Police Officers, in order to identify and develop effective approaches to tackle metal theft, including learning from previous operations.

Metropolitan Police

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how appointments will be made to the new Police Commission Panel in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [81887]

Nick Herbert: Police and crime panels (PCP) in Wales will be free-standing public bodies, established and maintained by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in accordance with schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The functions of a PCP in Wales are those set out in the Act and these are the same as those of a PCP in England.

While schedule 6 allows the Secretary of State to make nominations directly, local authorities will be invited to nominate relevant councillors to become panel members in the first instance.

Police Stations: Closures

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police stations that have closed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [82913]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally. Decisions about the effective use of available resources are for chief constables to take locally with their police authorities.

Police Stations: Opening Hours

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the proposed changes to opening hours of police stations in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough; [82945]

(2) what assessment she has made of the potential effects of proposed changes to opening hours for police stations in Dudley borough on *(a)* levels of anti-social behaviour, *(b)* the speed of responses to reported crimes and *(c)* police visibility; [82947]

(3) what assessment she has made of the potential effects of proposed changes to opening hours for police stations in Dudley borough on overall crime levels in the borough; [82948]

(4) whether she has had discussions with West Midlands police regarding proposed changes in opening hours of police stations in the West Midlands; and if she will make a statement. [83062]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Ministers have regular discussions with chief constables on a range of issues about policing. Decisions about the most effective use of available resources, including the operating hours of police stations, are a matter for the chief constable and the police authority to take locally.

Terrorism

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role she expects community safety partnerships to have in the counter-terrorism local profile system in Wales after 2011. [81071]

James Brokenshire: We are currently working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to revise the guidance published in May 2010 for local partners on Counter-Terrorism Local Partners. The revised guidance will be published in the new year.

West Midlands Police: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the potential effects of the planned reduction in funding from her Department to West Midlands police. [82946]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* We have recently received correspondence from chief constable Chris Sims and Bishop Derek Webley, Chair of West Midlands Police Authority, about funding of West Midlands police. I will consider these representations ahead of the provisional Policing Settlement for 2012-13.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Free Trade Agreements

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the benefit to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each unit of the smallest geographical area for which figures are available arising from the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement in respect of (i) trade, (ii) business creation, (iii) household income, (iv) gross domestic product and (v) job creation. [82673]

Mr Davey: The UK will gain an estimated £500 million a year in gross domestic product (GDP) from the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with UK exports predicted to increase by 0.02%, real income by 0.05% and real wages in the region of 0.06%. UK sectors, such as legal and financial services, ICT, low carbon, alcoholic beverages, and pharmaceuticals are likely to see substantial gains.

Business: Government Assistance

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have received assistance from Government schemes in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England in the last 18 months. [82481]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Government's Solutions for Business portfolio sets out the range of publicly funded support designed to help Businesses to identify and overcome key challenges as they grow. Available figures on the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) assisted are set out as follows.

Product	*Ashfield*	*Nottinghamshire*	*England*	*Comment*
Manufacturing Advisory Service	22	268	14,000	Figures are April 2010 to 30 September 2011
Access to finance	14	105	5,620	These figures are for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. There are a number of other providers in this field but figures are not available for them.
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	1	2	268	Refers to new KTPs awarded to SMEs, not total number of SMEs assisted and so numbers are underestimated
Collaborative Research and Development product and the Grant for Research and Development product	n/a	6	190	Refers to new grants awarded to SMEs, not total number of SMEs assisted and so numbers are underestimated

n/a = Not available

In some cases sub national data is not available so national figures for England are provided.

Product	*England*	*Comment*
Rural Development Programme for England Business Support	21,000	Figures for 18 months up unti lJune2011. Majority of business supported are SMEs and micro enterprises.
Helping Your Business Grow Internationally	7,460	Figures from April 2010 to March 2011
Work Place Training, including apprenticeships		
2009-10	26,460	These are the number of SMEs supported with advice and grant funding for development activities through the Leadership and Management Programme. Apprenticeship data is not available[1]
2010-11	28,923	—[1]
Networking for Innovation	n/a	There are 15 UK-wide Knowledge Transfer Networks on which collectively there are over 60,000+ members.

n/a = Not available
[1] Suggests brace

Figures for Understanding finance, Improving Your Resource Efficiency, Designing Demand and High Growth Coaching for Growth are not available.

In addition, Government have funded a range of information and support which was delivered via the regional development agencies (RDAs) through the Business Link regional advisory service. East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) the RDA covering the East Midlands, have supplied the following figures for SMEs assisted by EMDA and the wider Business Link regional service across England in the last 18 months:

	Number
Ashfield:	2,095
Nottinghamshire	85,677
England	844,293

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82552]

Mr Davey: The information requested is as follows.

(a) 29 internal audit reports were issued in BIS in the 12 months ending 31 October 2011.

(b) 45 internal audit reports were issued in the 12 months ending 31 October 2011 for those BIS partner organisations where BIS Internal Audit Directorate provided internal audit services. These break down as follows:

	Number
Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)	3
Intellectual Property Office	7
Insolvency Service	10
Competition Commission	4
Competition Services	2
UK Trade and Investment	8
Capital for Enterprise Ltd	4
National Measurement Office	4
Simplifying International Trade Procedures (SITPRO)	2
Local Better Regulation Office	1

All other BIS partner organisations have their own internal audit services and information on the number of internal audits completed is not held centrally.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82582]

Mr Davey: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Official photographs of all BIS' new Ministers, using a freelance photographer in a single photo-session, were taken in May 2010.

(b) Three senior officials have had an official photograph taken since May 2010—by in-house staff; other senior officials have sourced their official photographs elsewhere.

In both instances, these official photographs are only used—where required—to illustrate a Foreword in a Government publication.

As part of their ministerial roles of launching events and speaking at press announcements, one GCN member of staff—in the course of their duties in a wider digital engagement role in the Department's communications directorate—undertakes photography of the events; but these shots are not used in Government publications.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73191]

Mr Davey: The cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for the Department in the following financial years has been:

2009-10—£2,011,581

2010-11—£531,907.

The estimated cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement in 2011-12 is £458,000.

The estimated cost of engaging consultants to undertake procurement in 2011-12 is £287,727. Additionally, the Department has commissioned the services of a procurement professional from one of our non-departmental public bodies at an estimated cost of £31,725.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what correspondence he has received from supermarkets on the Gangmasters Licensing Authority in respect of the Red Tape Challenge; and if he will publish any such correspondence. [83374]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has received submissions from a number of organisations including supermarkets on the Gangmaster Licensing Authority in respect of the Red Tape Challenge. The Red Tape Challenge process enabled individuals or organisations to contribute views either publically on the website or in private submissions. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not intend to publish private submissions.

Heathrow Airport

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether competition levels are a consideration in the allocation of slots at Heathrow airport. [81202]

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of any competition issues from one airline group holding the majority of slots at Heathrow Airport. [81344]

Mrs Villiers: I have been asked to reply.

I would refer the hon. Members to my written answer given today to the hon. Member for Midlothian (Mr Hamilton), (UIN 80520, 80522 and 80523) in relation to the proposed sale of the airline BMI.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* the manufacturing base, *(b)* the supply chain and *(c)* shipyards are capable of building ships with a capacity of over 15,000 twenty-foot-equivalent units; and if he will make a statement. [82374]

Mr Prisk: As co-chairman of the Marine Industries Leadership Council, I have been in discussion with industry about a range of issues and launched the joint industry/Government strategy for growth for the UK marine industries on 19 September 2011. However, decisions on what ships to build, where and ensuring the availability of suitable facilities are a commercial matter.

Motor Sport Industry

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support the motor sport industry. [82359]

Mr Prisk: There is regular engagement with the sector and directly with a range of motorsport companies. My noble Friend the Minister for Trade and Investment, Lord Hurstpierpoint, as well as officials from BIS and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has recently met the Motorsport Industry Association and motor sport companies are represented on the joint industry/ Government Automotive Council. Various motorsport companies have received conditional offers of support from the Regional Growth Fund and have also benefited from funding from the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) through the Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform's Integrated Delivery Programme.

For example, companies such as Prodrive, Delta and Zytek have received TSB grants to help develop technologies that have impacts in both motorsport and mainstream automotive applications. Flybrid Motors who developed a kinetic energy recovery system (KERS) for F1 are now working with premium car manufacturers in a TSB-funded project to demonstrate the cost benefits of KERS over other hybrid systems. The Niche Vehicle Network (NVN), whose membership includes many motorsport companies, has also received funding from this Department. Through the NVN, Delta Motorsport, for example, has benefited from funding to develop a lower cost battery system that will be demonstrated in their Delta E-4 Electric Coupé.

The motorsport industry also received support from UKTI, who sponsor a number of activities highlighting the success and capabilities of UK motorsport companies.

Photography

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will examine the circumstances which have led to private sector high street photographers losing revenue to new digital photographic facilities in selected post offices; and if he will make a statement. [82899]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on Tuesday 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 328-29W.

Post Offices

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of whether Post Office Limited has conducted an adequate process of public consultation in respect of its plans to transform half of the post office branch network to new operating models. [83515]

Mr Davey: This Government are committed to securing a sustainable future for the post office, including maintaining a network of at least 11,500 branches. The introduction of new operating models, designed to better meet customer need, is an important part of Post Office Ltd's strategy to achieve this.

Post Office Ltd has agreed a code of practice with Consumer Focus with regard to public consultation around changes to its network, and will meet its responsibilities within this code.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* the Home Department, *(b)* Transport and *(c)* Work and Pensions on proposals to transform half of the post office branch network to new operating models. [83516]

Mr Davey: I consulted with ministerial colleagues across all Departments prior to publication of the November 2010 policy document 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age', which set out proposals to introduce new operating models to the Post Office network, to help meet customer need and secure a sustainable future for the network. Those proposals have also arisen in subsequent discussions with colleagues, including those highlighted above.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the ability of *(a)* sub-post offices and *(b)* Post Office Local to provide Government services. [83544]

Mr Davey: Sub-post offices—those not directly operated by Post Office Ltd—comprise the vast majority of the existing network. They offer a wide range of the services that Post Office Ltd provides on behalf of the Government, with the precise offering for each branch varying for some services.

Post Office Ltd is currently piloting Post Office Locals across the UK. Details of the precise Government services that will be offered through the final Local model will be a matter for Post Office Ltd, using learning from current and future pilots. Research by Consumer Focus has shown that over 95% of customer transactions by volume are already available in Post Office Local pilots—for example the collection of pensions and benefits.

Post Offices: Closures

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the likely effect changes to the post office branch network will have on the rate of closure of post office branches. [82888]

Mr Davey: This Government have been clear that there will be no programme of post office closures, and is providing £1.34 billion of funding over the spending review period to 2015 to modernise the Post Office network and to secure its future. As part of that funding, Post Office Ltd must maintain the network at around its current size with at least 11,500 branches.

Post Offices: Rural Areas

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the effect on the level and quality of services provided to *(a)* the elderly, *(b)* small businesses and *(c)* people living in rural areas of changes to the post office branch network. [82889]

Mr Davey: Under the £1.34 billion funding package for the Post Office, announced last November, Post Office Ltd will continue to meet the strict access criteria that ensure reasonable access to post office services throughout the UK. As part of the network modernisation process, changes to the branch network will provide longer opening hours, quicker service, and an improved retail environment to the benefit of all customers.

Science: Higher Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research he has commissioned on the effect on the number of courses in STEM subjects of the Government's decision to remove limits on student numbers at university for those achieving AAB grades or higher at A level; and if he will make a statement. [80734]

Mr Willetts: Following the publication of the Higher Education White Paper, "Students at the Heart of the System", published in June this year, BIS Ministers wrote to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) setting out priorities for funding which include the additional costs associated with high cost subjects and strategically important and vulnerable subjects (SIVS), which includes some STEM subjects. Ministers will give their final instructions to HEFCE in the 2012-13 grant letter, due at the turn of the year.

In October, HEFCE published a document which sets out their decisions on the setting of student number control limits for 2012-13; this document stated that funding for provision of strategically important and vulnerable subjects (SIVS) will be excluded from the pro-rata cut of 20,000 places to create a flexible margin of places that higher education institutions can bid for.

As all English universities are private autonomous institutions that are independently run, it is for them to make their own decisions about the courses they will provide; their admissions policy; how to implement their own funding strategies; and to make the necessary decisions to ensure they are responsive to student choice and that their institutions can continue to flourish.

Students: Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the cost of providing student loans for access to higher education courses from the 2013-14 academic year; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of such loans that will be repaid. [80875]

Mr Willetts: The estimated up-front costs of providing loans to students from 2012/13 to 2015/16 academic years are set out in the following table:

				£m
	2012/13	*2013/14*	*2014/15*	*2015/16*
Tuition fee loans (full and part time)	4,300	5,700	6,900	7,500
Maintenance loans	3,200	3,400	3,500	3,600

Estimates for tuition fee loans are based on assumption that 90% of eligible students will take out loans. The average fee loan assumption is £7,500.

We currently estimate that the resource accounting and budgeting charge for student loans—representing the cost of both write-offs and interest subsidies—will be around 30% of the face value of loans issued.

Supermarkets

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants in his Department have had with representatives of (i) Asda, (ii) Tesco and (iii) Sainsbury's since June 2010. [82311]

Mr Prisk: Since June 2010, Ministers and senior officials have met on numerous occasions with those large retailers, as well as with a broad range of other stakeholders.

All Ministers' meetings are now published quarterly on the Department's website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Technology Strategy Board : Science

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he has allocated for *(a)* science research and *(b)* the Technology Strategy Board in each of the next five years. [82775]

Mr Willetts: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah), on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 268-69W.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received legal advice on whether the ruling of the High Court in Connolly *v.* DPP [2007] EWHC 237 (Admin), as regards the interpretation and application of section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 so as to ensure its compatibility with the right to freedom of expression under article 10 of the European convention on human rights represents the most authoritative precedent in this matter. [82606]

Mr Blunt: Interpretation of legislation is entirely a matter for the courts. Legal advice is of course sought as appropriate in developing Government policy.

Civil Disorder

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those remanded in custody for offences relating to the public disorder of 6 to 9 August 2011 were subsequently *(a)* found not guilty or *(b)* not given a custodial sentence. [82427]

Mr Blunt: Estimated number of defendants remanded in custody at some point for offences relating to the public disorder between 6 and 9 August 2011, where

final outcome of the case is known—as at 12 October 2011 (latest available), can be viewed in the following table.

Estimated number of defendants remanded in custody for offences relating to the public disorder between 6 and 9 August 2011, where final outcome of case is known, data as of 12 October 2011[1, 2, 3]

	Number
Remanded in custody at some point during proceedings	283
Of which:	
Sentenced to immediate custody	206
Non-custodial sentence	41
Acquitted or dismissed	36

[1] In order to allow timely reporting of statistics on defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for offences resulting from 6 to 9 August period of public disorder, a dataset has been compiled from manual returns from the courts. This dataset has not undergone the full quality assurance process used on the Department's court proceedings database, hence these remand figures are presented as estimates. This table was compiled from data received by 12 October 2011.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Crimes of Violence: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of violent criminal offences in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [83394]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty at all courts of violent crimes, by offence type, in the Greater London police force area, from 2008 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown at borough level.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of violent crimes, by offence type, Greater London police force area, 2008-10[1,2]

Offence type	*2008*[3]	*2009*	*2010*
Violence against the person	6,824	6,712	7,033
Sexual offences	781	823	936
Robbery	2,748	2,573	2,845
Total	10,353	10,108	10,814

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Domestic Violence: Reoffenders

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women convicted of domestic violence offences were repeat offenders in 2010. [83697]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not available as domestic violence cannot be separately identified, in the data that we hold, from other forms of violence against the person.

Euthanasia

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to bring forward legislative proposals in order to place on a statutory basis the current guidance issued by the Crown Prosecution Service in respect of assisted suicide. [82900]

Mr Blunt: The Government have no plans to bring forward such legislative proposals.

Insolvency

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of potential changes to *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect receipts to HM Revenue and Customs in respect of insolvencies attributable to changes to (i) conditional fee arrangements and (ii) after-the-event insurance. [82358]

Mr Djanogly: As I stated in my answer on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 183W, and 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 168W, an updated impact assessment was published alongside the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, which includes provisions on the proposed reform of no win no fee conditional fee agreements. Department officials and I continue to discuss the likely impacts of these changes in relation to insolvency proceedings.

Legal Aid Scheme

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely amount of legal aid funding provided to the not-for-profit sector by the end of 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [83382]

Mr Djanogly: The LSC is unable to estimate the expected legal aid spend on the not-for-profit sector during the current financial year as the LSC's business processes do not hold information in this format. Additionally, under the Unified Contract, commissioning for not-for-profit agencies is part of an overall approach to civil legal aid and there is no separate budget for not-for-profit expenditure. However, actual legal aid spending on the not-for-profit sector during April 2011 to October 2011 was £30.4 million.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisons and probation staff who offer advice to former armed services personnel are given facilities time to carry out those duties. [83223]

Mr Blunt: The needs of veterans are identified through the assessment procedures that form the first part of the offender management process, with Offender Supervisors and Managers offering advice and making referrals to specialist services as part of their role.

Additionally, the Veterans in Custody Scheme (ViCS) is now operating in more than 100 prisons. Where governors have identified that there is local need for the scheme, staff facility time is being made available to support it. Similar schemes are operating in the community in a number of probation trusts. Any decisions about the allocation of resources to support such schemes are taken at local level to reflect identified need.

Parole Board for England and Wales: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of the Parole Board was in each financial year between 1996-97 and 2010-11. [83280]

Mr Djanogly: The resource budget allocations to the Parole Board in each of the following financial years are shown in the following table:

Period	*£ million*
1996-97	1.9
1997-98	2.5
1998-99	2.7
1999-2000	2.6
2000-01	2.8
2001-02	2.8
2002-03	3.1
2003-04	3.7
2004-05	4.8
2005-06	4.2
2006-07	5.9
2007-08	7.5
2008-09	8.4
2009-10	9.8
2010-11	11.0

The Ministry of Justice was formed in May 2007. Prior to this date, the Parole Board was an executive non-departmental public body working at arm's length from the Home Office.

Prisoners

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been moved between prisons in each year since 2005. [82738]

Mr Blunt: The information for prisoner movement between prisons in each year since 2005 (April to March) is reproduced in the following table:

	Number
2005-06	68,430
2006-07	71,812
2007-08	74,788
2008-09	80,922
2009-10	75,110
2010-11	72,152

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners of each nationality were in prison in England and Wales on 31 October 2011. [83429]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of foreign national prisoners of each nationality being held in prisons in England and Wales, as at 30 September 2011. These figures are published quarterly in table 1.5 of the "Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin" available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison, by nationality, 30 September 2011, England and Wales

Nationality	*Total*
All nationalities	87,501
British nationals	74,738
Foreign nationals	11,076
Nationality not recorded	1,687
Total Africa	2,503
Angola	58
Burundi	18
Benin	4
Botswana	1
Ivory Coast	30
Central African Republic	18
Congo	115
Cameroon	24
Algeria	148
Egypt	22
Ethiopia	65
Gabon	1
Ghana	131
Gambia	52
Guinea	13
Equatorial Guinea	1
Kenya	59
Liberia	19
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	23
Morocco	63
Mauritania	3
Mauritius	15
Malawi	13
Mozambique	5
Namibia	8
Niger	21
Nigeria	581
Rwanda	15
Seychelles	2
Sudan	35
Sierra Leone	77
Senegal	6
Somalia	444
Chad	1
Togo	3
Tunisia	25
Tanzania	20
Uganda	65

Population in prison, by nationality, 30 September 2011, England and Wales

Nationality	*Total*
Western Sahara	4
South Africa	105
Zambia	18
Zimbabwe	172
Total Asia	2,257
Afghanistan	169
Bangladesh	263
Myanmar	2
China	217
Hong Kong	1
India	397
Japan	3
Korea, DPR (North Korea)	1
Korea, Republic of	4
Sri Lanka	154
Mongolia	2
Maldives	1
Malaysia	30
Nepal	13
Philippines	21
Pakistan	475
Singapore	1
Thailand	6
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	3
Vietnam	494
Total Central and South America	276
Argentina	3
Bolivia	14
Brazil	56
Belize	1
Chile	17
Colombia	67
Costa Rica	6
Ecuador	14
French Guiana	3
Guatemala	6
Guyana	27
Mexico	28
Nicaragua	2
Panama	1
Peru	4
Paraguay	3
Suriname	4
El Salvador	1
Venezuela	19
Total North America	99
Canada	25
United States	74
Total Europe	4,307
Albania	163
Armenia	8
Austria	12
Azerbaijan	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9
Belgium	29
Bulgaria	52
Croatia	5
Switzerland	5
Czech Republic	101

Population in prison, by nationality, 30 September 2011, England and Wales

Nationality	*Total*
Cyprus	36
Germany	102
Denmark	14
Estonia	31
Spain	71
Finland	3
France	124
Georgia	13
Gibraltar	4
Greece	16
Hungary	52
Irish Republic	756
Italy	78
Kazakhstan	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Lithuania	445
Latvia	201
Moldova	6
Macedonia	7
Malta	2
Netherlands	151
Norway	3
Poland	735
Portugal	216
Romania	454
Sweden	18
Slovakia	76
Serbia and Montenegro	42
Slovenia	1
Russian Federation	67
Ukraine	32
Turkey	152
Uzbekistan	9
Total Middle East	518
United Arab Emirates	1
Iran	203
Israel	46
Iraq	207
Jordan	4
Kuwait	12
Lebanon	12
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	9
Syrian Arab Republic	12
Yemen, Republic of	11
Total Oceania	32
Australia	19
Fiji	5
Kiribati	1
New Zealand	6
Samoa	1
Total West Indies	1,083
Netherlands Antilles	1
Antigua and Barbuda	4
Barbados	41
Bermuda	4
Bahamas	2
Cuba	6
Dominica	15
Grenada	17

Population in prison, by nationality, 30 September 2011, England and Wales

Nationality	*Total*
Haiti	1
Jamaica	878
Cayman Islands	2
St Lucia	20
Montserrat	13
St Kitts and Nevis	4
Trinidad and Tobago	60
St Vincent and the Grenadines	15
Total other	1

Prisoners: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the training provided to prison staff who are required to care for offenders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. [83408]

Mr Blunt: Training for newly recruited prison officers provides officers with an understanding of mental health disorders and how to respond effectively to prisoners experiencing mental ill health. Further training is available to prison officers throughout their career depending on their role within their prison. All such training provides prison officers with the knowledge to identify offenders with mental health issues and refer to appropriate health care professionals.

Following a review of current safer custody training, all prison staff will have access to revised introductory courses on safer custody and mental health from April 2012. An enhanced mental health course, which refers specifically to post-traumatic stress disorder, will also be available to selected prison staff.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were repatriated in each year between 1997 and 2010. [83428]

Mr Blunt: The number of foreign national prisoners who were repatriated to serve their sentences between the calendar year 1997 to 2010 is set out in the following table. 5,235 foreign prisoners were removed at the end of sentence in 2010.

Calendar year	*Number of prisoners repatriated to foreign jurisdictions*
1997	17
1998	42
1999	22
2000	35
2001	39
2002	50
2003	51
2004	100
2005	136
2006	111
2007	111
2008	68
2009	41
2010	47

This table only includes prisoners repatriated from England and Wales. Figures on the number of prisoners repatriated from Northern Ireland and Scotland are a matter for those Administrations.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults on staff in prisons have taken place in each of the last five years. [83405]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service publishes annual Safety in Custody statistics on the Ministry of Justice website. Statistics on prisoner on officer assaults for 2001 to 2010 can be found at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/safety-in-custody.htm

Prisons: Education

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of equality and diversity training in respect of the provision of prison education in the last year for which figures are available. [83333]

Mr Blunt: No such estimate can be made as equality and diversity training provided to staff delivering education in prisons is not costed separately from other staff development activities.

In accordance with public sector equality duty, contracts issued by the Skills Funding Agency to providers of prison education require them to have regard to eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity throughout their activities.

All prison staff, including those involved in delivering education and training to prisoners, attend mandatory equality and diversity training.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [83584]

Mr Blunt: We intend to bring forward reforms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by way of amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

Russia

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department (i) have had and (ii) plan to have discussions with (A) General Tatiana Gerasimova and (B) General Nikolai Shelepanov. [82871]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Neither Ministers nor officials in my Department have had, nor plan to have discussions with General Tatiana Gerasimova and General Nikolai Shelepanov.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has awarded to Serco since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each such contract. [83053]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice awarded three contracts to Serco since May 2010. The estimated monetary value for the life of the three contracts is £1,607.9 million.

The following table provides the names, estimated annual and life costs of the contracts let to Serco since May 2010.

Contract	*Estimated total value for the life of the contract (net worth) (£ million)*	*Current estimated annual value of the contract (£ million)*	*Number of years*
HMP Thameside (PFI prison)	931.2	35.8	25
HMP Doncaster (market tested prison)	338.7	22.6	15
Prisoner escort and custody service for London and east of England	338.0	42.6	7

Young Offenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many proven offences of each type there were by under 18 year olds in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11. [83090]

Mr Blunt: Penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 to 17, cautions given to persons aged 10 to 17 and defendants aged 10 to 17 found guilty at all courts in England and Wales from 1996-97 to 2010-11 can be viewed in the following tables.

Penalty notice for disorder (PND) was implemented nationally in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Number of penalty notice disorders and cautions[1,2] issued to offenders, and number of defendants found guilty at all courts, for persons aged under 18, for all offences, England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2010-11[3,4]

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004[5]
Penalty notices for disorder (16 to 17-year-olds)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,146
Cautions	105,481	108,486	103,646	97,779	94,842	86,469	96,394	106,488
Convictions	81,467	87,988	91,551	92,308	94,903	93,431	94,533	94,646
Total	186,948	196,474	195,197	190,087	189,745	179,900	190,927	207,280

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[6]*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Penalty notices for disorder (16 to 17-year-olds)	13,977	20,609	18,093	13,803	10,705	7,507
Cautions	122,292	131,668	120,269	93,656	70,735	49,346
Convictions	96,447	94,485	95,401	86,837	78,587	71,514
Total	232,716	246,762	233,763	194,296	160,027	128,367

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] PNDs came into affect nationally in 2004.
[6] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many MyCSP employees have participated in industrial action against the plans to convert MyCSP to a mutual. [82435]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* Industrial action in the form of a half-day strike was organised by the PCS Union over "Loss of Civil Service Status" from midday on Friday 17 June 2011. 90 (19%) employees voted for strike action in the PCS ballot out of 484 employees, and 130 (27%) employees took part in the half-day strike action.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the proposed mutualisation of MyCSP has been subject to an *(a)* economic and *(b)* equality impact assessment; and if he will place in the Library copies of any such assessments. [82436]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The creation of MyCSP as a mutual joint venture is subject to a business case review by both the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury prior to the final decision.

As would be expected with a project of this type, a full equality impact assessment is also being developed. This will be refined as the project moves towards completion, and the final version will be published in line with Cabinet Office requirements.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the merits of including an asset lock in the proposed mutualisation of MyCSP. [82437]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* When vested, MyCSP will have a very small number of physical assets, such as movable equipment, for which an asset lock is not appropriate.

For the main commercial asset, the contract to provide services to Government will be covered by relevant commercial provisions, therefore an asset lock is not necessary.

Civil Servants: Redundancy

Kate Green: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has published an equality impact assessment on the implementation of redundancies in the civil service; and if he will provide a breakdown of redundancies by each Government department based on *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* grade. [79307]

Mr Maude: It is the responsibility of individual civil service employers to ensure that they have given suitable regard to the equality implications of the redundancy schemes that they run. Employers are also responsible for the collection of suitable management information to enable them to effectively enact their business.

The Cabinet Office does not collect, centrally, information on redundancies at the detailed level requested. We have therefore provided data sourced from ONS Annual Civil Service Employment Survey 2011. Due to the extensive data held within the table for this answer, it has been placed in the Library of the House.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80212]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office guidance says there should not be any spend on design and there is a strong presumption against exceptions being made. Where possible, in-house talent should be used.

The information requested for Cabinet Office relating to design spend, in respect of logos, buildings, advertising, stationery and campaigns in the last year, is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Special Advisers

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the total wage bill for special advisers employed by central Government departments as at *(a)* 1 March 2010 and *(b)* 1 November 2011. [81992]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 204W, to the hon. Member for Harrow West (Mr Thomas).

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82581]

Mr Hurd: Ministerial photos are publicly available on the Flickr page of the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/cabinetoffice?utm_source=www.domtail.com

The Cabinet Office has one member of staff whose role includes taking photographs at departmental events.

Government Departments: Databases

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 679-80W, on Government Department's databases, what progress he has made with the reviewing and repackaging of data.gov.uk to make it more accessible to the general public. [82428]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is currently reviewing usage and functionality aspects for data.gov.uk in order to understand how best to improve it for the future and make it easier for users to find and make use of the data available on the site. Improvements will be identified and implemented, and the repackaged data.gov.uk will be available in spring 2012.

Consultants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Department his Department has *(a)* helped to draw up guidelines and *(b)* approved guidelines on departmental use of consultants and technical support; and if he will make a statement. [82600]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Cabinet Office issued guidance on the use of consultants to all central Government Departments in May 2010. Since then, the guidance has been reviewed, and updates communicated to all central Government Departments.

As a result, last year, the Government saved £870 million by cutting departmental spend on consulting.

Mayors: Powers

Mr Byrne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the Government's consultation on mayoral powers, entitled What can a mayor do for your city? A consultation, and the Open Public Services White Paper, what assessment he has made of powers of his Department which could be devolved to elected mayors. [82584]

Mr Maude: A consultation is ongoing and will close 3 January 2012. Work is being taken forward by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles).

The Open Public Service White Paper listening exercise did not include specific questions in relation to devolving powers to elected Mayors.

Responses to the listening exercise are currently being analysed and will inform the Government's programme of work to implement the open public services agenda. Further information will be available in due course.

Public Sector: Mutual Societies

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make it his policy to offer new mutuals formed by public sector workers, which are not successful, the option to return to the public sector. [82438]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 24 November 2011]*: The Government will not seek to dictate across the board what is best for employees, the users of services and local communities. The precise model, form and progression of public service mutuals will not be uniform, but will follow from, for example, the specific characteristics of the workforce, the service being provided and the needs of service users.

Trilateral Commission Meetings

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if the Government has paid for anyone to attend Trilateral Commission meetings in each of the last three years. [82421]

Mr Hurd: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. There are no records of Cabinet Office staff attending the Trilateral Commission in the last three years.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Academies

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of progress on sector work-based academies. [82841]

Chris Grayling: There are now over a 120 sector-based work academies in England. These are successfully connecting unemployed people with local employers so that job seekers can fulfil their ambitions to work in their sector of choice.

The youth contract will bring funding for an extra 250,000 sector-based work academy or work experience places over the next three years. We anticipate that up to 300,000 claimants will benefit from this support by the end of March 2013.

Apprentices

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his contribution of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 2, what progress his Department's contractors have made in employing 5% of apprentices. [79176]

Chris Grayling: All new DWP contracts (from June 2010) include an Apprenticeships and Skills Requirements contract schedule. This schedule requires suppliers to provide an initial written report (six months after the contract start date) and then annually thereafter. The report must reflect all subcontractors involved in delivery of the contract and provide details on:

- the number of existing apprentices involved in delivery of the contract;
- the number of new starts on apprenticeships initiated as a result of delivery of the contract;
- actions being taken to try and improve the take-up of apprenticeships in the contractors' workforce;
- other training/development being undertaken by contractors' staff involved in delivery of the contract.

The Department is currently putting in place processes with its contractors for the collation of the data relating to the number of apprentices engaged in connection with our contracts with them. Once these processes are established, the Department will be in a position to report on such data in addition to being able to provide clearer visibility of the progress its contractors are making in this respect.

However, the information that we have received to date shows 1,979 apprentices employed by our top 21 suppliers in delivering goods and services to the Department.

In addition DWP also has a Supplier Charter which details some of the key targets, policies and principles that DWP expect its suppliers to contribute towards. One of the principles is apprenticeships and skills development in the workforce. All 45 of DWP's critical suppliers have signed, and committed to, the Supplier Charter.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82563]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010, the majority of photographs have been completed in-house by our communications team. With the exception of one photo for each of my ministerial team, the only other instances are where a photo has been taken as part of an official visit. The Department no longer includes photographs of the Ministers or senior executive in publications such as our annual report and accounts.

We have contracted out photography on only four occasions since May 2010.

Six members of communication staff have photography within their job descriptions. Their main role is primarily communications advice/delivery, editorial and copywriting, with photography being an ad-hoc task that forms an extremely small proportion of their overall work.

Departmental Travel

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was to his Department of ministerial transport in each month since June 2010. [79163]

Chris Grayling: In line with the Government's austerity agenda, the Department for Work and Pensions has taken vigorous action to enhance business travel policy. The DWP's business travel policy actively discourages travel, unless the alternatives have been examined and exhausted and, where travel is deemed appropriate, encourages the use of the most cost-effective modes of transport.

Since May 2010 the Department has reduced its number of ministerial cars from six to one. Expenditure on ministerial travel has decreased from £812,000 to £215,000, or 74% when compared to the preceding 16-month period, i.e. February 2009 to May 2010 compared to June 2010 to September 2011.

The monthly spend on ministerial travel is as follows:

June 2010 to September 2011

	Spend (£)[1]
2010	
June	1,619.96
July	73,813.71
August	-2,251.98
September	2,728.55
October	1,256.03
November	8,428.77
December	3,270.99
2011	
January	9,915.00
February	6,039.92
March	6,772.66
April	20,512.80
May	22,807.87
June	16,617.52
July	8,382.01
August	16,345.80
September 2011	19,142.40

[1] This includes rail, air, taxi and ministerial car

Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. The ministerial team has led the Department's travel cost reduction programme by example, as shown by the reduction in overall travel expenditure by Ministers.

Disability: Crimes of Violence

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on hate crimes against disabled people. [82828]

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on hate crimes against disabled people. [82838]

Maria Miller: Tackling disability hate crime is a priority for Government. Since taking on my cross-government role I have regularly spoken to and continue to work closely with Ministers in the Home Office, Ministry for Justice and other Government Departments to support their efforts to tackle disability-related harassment and hate crime.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 426-27W, on employment and support allowance, for what reasons the disregard for *(a)* personal and *(b)* occupational pensions in employment and support allowance calculations was not uprated in line with the consumer prices index; and if he will make a statement. [82367]

Chris Grayling: The Government consider a disregard of occupational/personal pension income of £85.00 a week before contributory employment and support allowance is reduced to be reasonable. Given its other priorities, in particular making work pay and the state of the public finances, the Government decided that it was not appropriate to increase the value of the disregard.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what minimum professional qualifications requirement has been specified by his Department in its contracts with Atos for assessors employed by or contracted to the company who are engaged to carry out assessments for eligibility for employment and support allowance. [82749]

Chris Grayling: The contract between the Department and Atos Healthcare specifies that:

Doctors must be fully registered with the General Medical Council and hold a licence to practice

Nurses must be fully registered (level 1) registered general nurses with the Nursing and Midwifery Council

Physiotherapists must be fully registered with the Health Professions Council.

In addition, all health care professionals must have a minimum of three years post full registration experience in roles that have a clear relevance to disability assessment medicine.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been moved from incapacity benefit onto employment and support allowance since May 2010. [82921]

Chris Grayling: Reassessment of claimants on old-style incapacity benefits using the work capability assessment started nationally from April 2011.

At the end of May 2011, there were 880 former incapacity benefits claimants in receipt of employment and support allowance. This information is available using the Department's tabulation tool, available at the following link:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/esa/ccdate/ib_mig/a_carate_r_ccdate_c_ib_mig.html

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit (IB) and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

3. From April 2011 onwards, incapacity benefit claims will be reassessed in the form of a work capability assessment to determine their eligibility for ESA. IB reassessed claims shown on ESA in the assessment phase are those assessed as fit for work and undergoing an appeal.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, May 2011.

Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of applications for employment and support allowance made by residents of *(a)* Wiltshire Unitary Authority and *(b)* England and Wales were rejected on the basis of work capability assessment in (i) each quarter of 2010-11 and (ii) each quarter of 2011-12 to date; and in respect of what proportion of such applications the decision was (A) reversed and (B) upheld on appeal; [82695]

(2) what proportion of applications for employment and support allowance made by residents of Wiltshire Unitary Authority were rejected on the basis of the work capability assessment in each quarter since the third quarter of 2010-11; and in respect of what proportion of such applications that decision was *(a)* reversed and *(b)* upheld on appeal. [82677]

Chris Grayling: The following tables present information on new employment and support allowance (ESA) claims received between April 2010 and February 2011, which have undergone a work capability assessment (WCA). Appeals data are presented for claims starting up to August 2010. These are the latest available data.

Each table presents the proportion of all claims that have undergone the WCA and were subsequently assessed as fit for work by the Department's decision makers. Decisions on entitlement to ESA rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

The tables present the proportion of all claims found fit for work that have appealed this decision and whose appeal has been resolved. The tables also show the proportion of completed appeals where the Department's decision was upheld and the proportion of completed appeals finding in favour of the appellant—meaning entitlement to ESA was reinstated.

Table 1 covers claims from Wiltshire Unitary Authority and Table 2 presents information for England and Wales combined. The tables provide monthly data rather than by quarter due to the limited amount of quarterly data available for the time period requested.

Table 1. Proportion of completed ESA claims assessed as fit for work (FFW), and proportions appealing a fit for work decision in Wiltshire Unitary Authority

Date of claim start	*Percentage of completed WCA assessed as fit for work*	*Percentage assessed as FFW with an appeal heard*	*Percentage of appeals where DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage of appeals finding in favour of appellant*
2010				
April	52	36	53	47
May	51	46	47	53
June	54	28	63	37
July	57	37	49	51
August	48	28	63	37
September	50	—	—	—
October	47	—	—	—
November	53	—	—	—
December	51	—	—	—
2011				
January	55	—	—	—
February	53	—	—	—

Table 2. Proportion of completed ESA claims found fit for work (FFW), and proportions appealing a fit for work decision in England and Wales combined

Date of claim start	*Percentage of completed WCA found fit for work*	*Percentage who have appealed a FFW decision*	*Percentage of appeals where DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage of appeals finding in favour of appellant*
2010				
April	59	34	65	35
May	60	31	65	35
June	59	30	69	31
July	58	27	70	30
August	57	24	69	31
September	57	—	—	—
October	56	—	—	—
November	57	—	—	—
December	56	—	—	—
2011				
January	58	—	—	—

Table 2. Proportion of completed ESA claims found fit for work (FFW), and proportions appealing a fit for work decision in England and Wales combined

Date of claim start	Percentage of completed WCA found fit for work	Percentage who have appealed a FFW decision	Percentage of appeals where DWP decision upheld	Percentage of appeals finding in favour of appellant
February	61	—	—	—

Notes:
1. All proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
2. Data are only available for new claims starting up to February 2011.
3. Data are only available for completed appeals heard by the end of August 2011 (linking back to claims starting by August 2010). Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard for these claims.
4. Variations in the appeals figures for Wiltshire Unitary Authority are due to random statistical variation, due to the low numbers of appeals coming through on a monthly basis. As such, any apparent trends should be treated with caution.
5. The Department regularly publishes information on ESA and the work capability assessment, the latest publication can be found on the departmental website at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
6. The data presented here are consistent with that presented in the publication referenced above.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the names are of the voluntary and community sector organisations involved as tier 1 and tier 2 subcontractors in the Work programme. [82390]

Chris Grayling: The information from the most recent stocktake which includes the names of voluntary and community sector organisations involved as tier 1 and tier 2 has been placed on the Department for Work and Pensions website. The link for this information is:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wp-supply-chains.pdf

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next expects to undertake a stocktake of providers involved in the Work programme. [82391]

Chris Grayling: The next stocktake is due to be undertaken at the end of January 2012.

Housing Benefit

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 348W, on Housing Benefit (Scotland), whether his Department plans to begin collecting information on the number of private sector landlords that have agreed to reduce rents in return for an arrangement that housing benefit be paid direct to them; when any such collection will begin; and when any resulting information will be made available. [82396]

Steve Webb: The Department has commissioned a consortium of academics and research organisations led by Ian Cole, professor of housing studies at Sheffield Hallam university, to undertake an independent review of the impact of changes to the local housing allowance system of housing benefit.

One element of the research is a survey of landlords which includes questions asking them about any reduction in rent they have agreed in exchange for receiving direct payments. The proportions of landlords who have (a) already reduced rents and (b) would consider doing so in the future will be estimated from survey results which will be available in late spring 2012.

The Department for Communities and Local Government, the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government are working in close partnership with the DWP and contributing to the costs of the review.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect of increases in private rents on expenditure on local housing allowance in 2011-12. [83184]

Steve Webb: Outturn information on local housing allowance expenditure for 2011-12 is not available until June 2012.

The latest estimate of local housing allowance expenditure for 2011-12 is £7.6 billion[1].

This compares to outturn expenditure of £6.4 billion for 2010-11[2].

The expected increase in expenditure is primarily due to higher numbers of households receiving housing benefit during 2011-12, rather than increases in the level of private rents. Our assumption is that eligible rents for those receiving local housing allowance will fall during 2011-12 following the introduction of the reforms to local housing allowance in April 2011.

[1] Source—Budget 2011 expenditure forecasts at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/all_tables_budget_2011_2.xls

[2] Source—Local authority subsidy claims

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what order benefits and tax credit will be withdrawn from households with incomes above the benefit cap; and which agency will be responsible in each case. [83227]

Chris Grayling: We are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit that working-age people can receive so households on out of work benefits will no longer receive more in benefit than the average weekly wage earned by working families.

The benefits that can be capped will be set out in regulations following the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill.

We have announced that the benefit cap will be introduced in April 2013 and be delivered by local authorities through housing benefit payments. It will be applied to universal credit once claimants start receiving it from October 2013.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals for an income-based jobseeker's allowance. [83025]

Chris Grayling: Currently income-based jobseeker's allowance is a means-tested benefit available for customers who meet the conditions of entitlement. Typically it is available to those unemployed who do not meet the

criteria for contribution-based jobseeker's allowance and who have minimal or no savings, acting as a safety net.

The Welfare Reform Bill currently going through the parliamentary process introduces universal credit. Under the provisions of the Bill, from October 2013 all new claims for out-of-work support would be treated as claims to universal credit. Between April 2014 and October 2017, it is intended that existing claimants will migrate across to universal credit.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance in England in September 2011 were aged *(a)* 20, *(b)* 21, *(c)* 22, *(d)* 23 and *(e)* 24 years. [83853]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in England in September 2011 were aged (a) 20, (b) 21, (c) 22, (d) 23 (e) 24 years. (83853)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Figures for the age breakdowns requested are unavailable; however as an alternative we have supplied the figure for the age group 20-24. To the nearest 5, there were 280,205 people aged 20-24 resident in England in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance in September 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

New Businesses: Government Assistance

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support is available through Jobcentre Plus for people who wish to start their own business. [82842]

Chris Grayling: Support is available through the new enterprise allowance which provides access to business mentoring and financial support. Jobcentre Plus advisers also signpost claimants to local enterprise clubs, where they are available, and to other sources of business start-up support.

Social Exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people experiencing social exclusion. [81936]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not publish estimates of the numbers of people experiencing social exclusion. A wide range of information concerning poverty, income and benefit receipt is published on the Department's website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistics_a_to_z

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase employment among people experiencing social exclusion. [81937]

Chris Grayling: The Government launched the Work Programme on 10 June 2011 and it is now in place nationally. Participants will receive personalised support to overcome barriers to employment. Providers will be paid for their success in supporting participants into work, and for helping them to stay in work. Higher payments are available for supporting the hardest to help. This payment structure, and the freedom afforded to providers to innovate, will ensure the delivery of support that meets the needs of participants who are furthest from employment. Claimants remain on the Work Programme for up to two years, giving providers time to invest in addressing long-term challenges.

Everyone who receives jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance can access the Work Programme at a time that is right for them. jobseeker's allowance claimants who are identified as being severely disadvantaged can volunteer to access the Work Programme at the three month stage of their claim, with the agreement of their Jobcentre Plus adviser. This includes ex-offenders; disabled people; people with mild to moderate mental health issues; care leavers, carers; homeless people; former members of HM armed forces; partners of current or former member of HM armed forces, and people with current or previous substance dependency problems that present a significant barrier to employment. Additionally, from March 2012, we intend to bring forward the entry point for prison leavers claiming jobseeker's allowance to immediately on release from custody.

Since April 2011 Jobcentre Plus has been given greater freedom to support claimants during the first months of their claim in a way that addresses the needs of each individual more effectively. The new flexible model has three elements: a core regime of regular face-to-face meetings, flexible adviser support and a flexible menu of support options. Jobcentre Plus advisers are able to offer claimants a comprehensive menu of support including skills provision and job search help. This new regime will be supported by a Flexible Support Fund, which can be used at the discretion of Jobcentre Plus Managers and advisers for a wide range of activities that support claimants to move into employment.

This flexible support is being bolstered by a series of Get Britain Working measures, including:

The new enterprise allowance, supporting those looking to start their own business.

Enterprise Clubs, helping people make the most of local knowledge and resources to support unemployed people who are interested in self-employment.

Work Clubs, encouraging people who are out of work to exchange skills and share experiences, enabling individuals to take responsibility for planning their own journey back to work with the support of others going through the same experience.

Work Together, helping claimants develop work skills through volunteering, with opportunities provided by local charities and voluntary organisations.

Work Experience, helping young unemployed people get work experience through a placement with a local business.

Sector-based work academies, offering pre-employment training and work experience placements in sectors with high volumes of local vacancies.

In addition, universal credit will increase employment by improving work incentives. Financial support will be reduced at a consistent and predictable rate and people will generally keep a higher proportion of their earnings. This will ensure that any work pays, including low-hour work. The distinction between in-work and out-of-work support will be removed, making the potential gains to work clearer and reducing the risks associated with moves into employment.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to facilitate a cross-governmental approach on tackling social exclusion. [81938]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), chairs the Social Justice Cabinet Committee, which exists to consider issues relating to poverty, equality and Social Justice.

This Committee facilitates cross-Government working and scrutiny of policies for their effects on some of the most disadvantaged groups in society.

The Social Justice Directorate in DWP supports the work of the Committee and works across Government to further the Social Justice agenda. We expect to publish a Social Justice Strategy in the new year, which will outline progress to date.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were working on social exclusion in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the number of such staff in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [82082]

Chris Grayling: A key element of the vision of the Department for Work and Pensions, as set out in the 2011-15 Business plan, is to ensure that the most vulnerable in society are protected.

This overarching priority permeates the work of all departmental staff to some extent, and therefore it is not possible to stipulate the number of staff working specifically on a social exclusion agenda.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on a co-ordinated approach towards people experiencing social exclusion due to poor housing. [82085]

Steve Webb: The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and composed of Ministers from across relevant Government Departments, is focused on co-ordinating policy on poverty, equality and social justice.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), is a member of the Committee, and his officials sit on the Officials' Group that supports it. The Committee and Officials' Group meet on a monthly basis.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Home Office on a co-ordinated approach towards people experiencing social exclusion due to crime. [82086]

Chris Grayling: The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and composed of Ministers from across relevant Government Departments, is focused on co-ordinating policy on poverty, equality and social justice.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), is a member of the committee, and Home Office officials sit on the officials' group that supports it. The committee and officials' group meet on a monthly basis.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Department for Education on a co-ordinated approach towards people experiencing social exclusion due to poor education. [82089]

Chris Grayling: The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and composed of Ministers from across relevant Government Departments, is focused on co-ordinating policy on poverty, equality and social justice.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), is a member of the Committee, and Department for Education officials sit on the Officials' Group that supports it. The Committee and Officials' Group meet on a monthly basis.

Social Security Benefits

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been of administration of appeals against *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance decisions for each of the last three years. [80364]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Direct staff administration cost of appeals

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*£ million 2010-11*
Disability living allowance appeals	6.7	6.6	6.5
Incapacity benefit appeals	6.7	5.0	2.7
Employment support allowance appeals	0.2	6.4	12.1

Source:
Activity-based management system.

Figures shown cover the last three financial years for which final audited accounts are available. Employment support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. Existing incapacity benefit claimants began migrating to employment support allowance in the latter half of 2009-10.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the annual cost to the Exchequer of exempting households from the benefit cap for six months following exit from employment due to redundancy or the commencement of caring responsibilities. [83518]

Chris Grayling: The information that would enable us to make such an assessment is not available.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of excluding from the level of the overall benefit cap *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* child tax credit and *(c)* both benefits. [83519]

Chris Grayling: We estimate that the benefit cap will save £225 million in 2013-14 and £270 million in 2014-15 if it is introduced as announced in the 2010 spending review.

Analysis of the benefit cap is based on a very small sample using survey data, so any assessment of options to exempt certain categories of income or groups from the benefit cap is subject to significant uncertainty.

Estimates suggest that excluding child benefit from the calculation of the benefit cap may reduce these savings by around 40% to 50%, in both years.

Excluding child tax credit may reduce the savings by around 80% to 90%, in both years.

Excluding both child benefit and child tax credit would reduce the savings by around 90%, in both years.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on his proposals for the state pension age for women. [82318]

Steve Webb: During the passage of the Pension Bill 2011 we listened to stakeholders, representative groups and individuals about the impact the proposed changes to state pension age would have on particular women. We therefore introduced an amendment so that state pension age will not reach 66 until October 2020.

As a consequence no woman will have an increase in her state pension age, against the previous legislated timetable, of more than 18 months and those women who would have experienced the largest delay in receiving their state pension will find this delay reduced by six months. This amendment reduces the savings on pensions and benefits expenditure from our original proposals by around £1 billion.

We believe the amended timetable contained in the Pensions Act 2011 strikes a fair balance between addressing the concerns raised and maintaining fiscal sustainability.

Unemployment: Ex-servicemen

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what support his Department provides to help those leaving the armed forces to find work; [83542]

(2) what *(a)* bespoke training and *(b)* advice his Department provides for veterans of the armed forces looking for work. [83543]

Chris Grayling: All former service personnel claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) receive a flexible, personalised service and access to the full range of Jobcentre Plus service from day one.

This starts at the outset of the claim with an initial personal adviser meeting. The purpose of this is to discuss and agree some realistic and achievable job goals and steps that, if taken regularly, will offer the best chance of finding work. As part of this, the adviser provides information about, and access to, a range of additional support to help people improve job prospects. This includes support to overcome barriers that may make finding and keeping a job more difficult. Examples include specialist support for those with a health problem or disability or a skills need.

Thereafter, ex-service personnel receive ongoing support through regular jobsearch reviews and additional adviser contacts tailored to individual need. In addition, those unable to find work quickly can volunteer for early entry to the Work programme from the three-month point in their claim. Those with additional needs on employment and support allowance, incapacity benefit or income support can also volunteer for the Work programme at any point in their claim. The Work programme is the biggest single welfare to work programme this country has ever seen. It is built around the needs of individuals, targeting the right support at the right time, regardless of the benefit the claimant is in receipt of.

In terms of bespoke training, a skills screening is undertaken at the outset of the claim and where a need is identified, ex-service personnel are referred for further advice and guidance. Where appropriate, remedial provision is available from the Skills Funding Agency in England and the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales. Jobcentre Plus advisers work with the Skills Funding Agency or training providers in the devolved Administrations to arrange bespoke training for claimants where a need has been identified that, once addressed, will move the claimant closer to, or into, work.

In addition to the services outlined above, every Jobcentre Plus district has an armed forces champion. Their role is to ensure the support, advice and guidance offered reflects the needs of service leavers and the wider service community. The champions work in partnership with the armed forces community, support organisations and local and national employers to identify employment opportunities and specialist support for service leavers.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to determine the delivery model for universal credit. [83520]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will be delivered by the DWP, through a predominantly online service, supported by telephone and face to face contact where appropriate. We are working collaboratively with existing delivery organisations to ensure that the delivery model takes full account of the needs of different claimant groups. The delivery model will be developed in greater detail in 2012 as a component of the overall design of the universal credit service.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has assessed the universal credit programme against the National Audit Office's list of common causes of project failure; and if he will place a copy of any such assessment in the Library. [83521]

Chris Grayling: The Office of Government Commerce's paper on "Common Causes of Project Failure" is part of a suite of published best practice (including also "Causes of Confidence") that officials have used to examine the standing of the universal credit programme, work that sits alongside advice from external experts and internal audit and assurance.

In terms of assessments, these have been undertaken by the Department's internal auditors and by the Major Project Authority, in line with the "Major Project approval and assurance guidance" published in April 2011. The most recent Major Project Authority assessment took place between 7 and 11 November 2011. The report from this assessment is confidential to the Senior Responsible Owner and the Major Project Authority and will not, therefore, be published.

Work Capability Assessment

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Tyneside of 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 8, on the Work Capability Assessment, whether he plans to publish the suggested descriptors for mental cognitive and intellectual function that his Department has received from Professor Harrington's working group; and when any such publication will take place. [82392]

Chris Grayling: We currently have no plans to publish the report submitted by Professor Harrington to us on the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors.

Professor Harrington's second independent review of the Work Capability Assessment has been published on 24 November. This contains a précis of the recommendations as well as an update on the current position regarding their consideration.

As the Government's response to Professor Harrington's second review—also published on 24 November—sets out, we are already engaging with the charities to revise the ESA50 questionnaire to take account of some of their recommendations. To further our evidence base, we are also considering developing a gold standard review during the first half of 2012.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Community Relations

Gordon Henderson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps the Church Commissioners are taking to encourage churches to form closer links with their local communities. [82261]

Tony Baldry: The Church has two new initiatives which it has launched recently; the first is a research project into new mission projects. The Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners have distributed £1 million as part of a nationwide move to help develop successful church growth projects in deprived areas. The £100,000 grants have been distributed to 10 projects across nine dioceses where existing activity has a proven track record of growth. The funds are part of a wider research and development programme, a key aim of which is to ensure projects are evaluated to provide evidence of what is proving effective.

A further £2 million in grants is being distributed next year. This overall £3 million for developing church growth in deprived areas is part of £12 million set aside by the Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners for research and development work in 2011-13 and is in support of the strategic goals set out by the Archbishop of Canterbury in his November 2010 Presidential Address to the new General Synod.

The Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council have for many years earmarked money specifically for mission development; while the details of this funding stream are new, it is part of the continuing commitment to ensure that the money generated by the historic endowment of the Commissioners is available to meet 'opportunity' as well as 'need'.

Projects awarded funding for developing church growth in deprived areas (October 2011)

Diocese of Birmingham: A proposal to train Mission Apprentices combining structured training and mission experience in deprived parishes.

Diocese of Bradford: 'Sorted' Youth Evangelism Project—development of an existing successful youth evangelism project working with multi-cultural communities in deprived areas.

Diocese of Canterbury: 'Ignite' Project, Cliftonville—employing a missioner to replicate an established model of community ministry from a deprived neighbourhood into another area.

Diocese of Coventry: Mission Leadership—training and mentoring of young mission leaders, based in deprived parishes showing good levels of growth.

Diocese of Leicester: Eyres Monsell and New Parks Parish Development Project—a proposal to augment existing growth, using mission workers to help develop lay ministry in two Anglo-Catholic parishes with very high levels of multiple deprivation.

Diocese of Liverpool: Liverpool Cathedral Mission Project—using the Cathedral as a resource to support the replication of two, currently Cathedral-based, examples of Fresh Expressions into deprived parishes.

Diocese of Liverpool: St Andrew's Clubmoor Mission Development—part-funding two posts to further develop mission and counselling work in an existing community and missional project with high levels of outreach into very deprived neighbourhoods.

Diocese of London: St Francis Dalgarno Way—development of mission activity in a fast-growing church plant through employment of a worker, targeting children and families in a deprived area with a high proportion of young people.

Diocese of Sheffield: Pioneer Mission Training—funding for pump-priming training and bursaries for pioneer missioners in very deprived parishes.

Diocese of Worcester: St Barnabas Worcester, Tolladine Mission—scaling up a successful existing project based around a mission community in an area with pockets of exceptional multiple deprivation, by employing a mission leader full-time.

The Second initiative being the Near Neighbours project which is being administered by the Church Urban Fund in association with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Near Neighbours aims to bring people together in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse to foster greater understanding, build relationships of trust and working collectively to improve the local community.

This will be achieved by building on work already undertaken by churches and other faith groups through the twin streams of Social Action and Social Interaction. The projects are working collaboratively with the Christian Muslim Forum, the Hindu Christian Forum, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Nehemiah foundation, the Feast and Catalyst. The main focus for this work being in the cities of Leicester, Bradford, Burnley, Oldham, Birmingham and London. I have placed more information about the Near Neighbours project in the Library.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of any link between levels of alcohol duty fraud and the excessive consumption of alcohol. [82405]

Miss Chloe Smith: I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been made of any link between levels of alcohol duty fraud and excessive alcohol consumption.

HM Revenue and Customs have recently renewed their strategy to tackle alcohol duty fraud. The Department of Health aims to publish the Government's strategy for reducing harm from alcohol in the coming months.

Ambulance Services: Rural Areas

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure adequate ambulance resources are available to rural counties. [82397]

Mr Simon Burns: It is the responsibility of individual ambulance trusts to ensure that adequate ambulance resources are available to all patients in their area, taking into account the local geography.

Clinical quality indicators for the ambulance service came into effect from April 2011 and require each ambulance trust to publish the median time to treatment, the 95th centile time to treatment and 99th centile time to treatment for immediately life-threatening (category A) calls. The requirement to publish these data, and in particular the 95th centile and 99th centile time to treatment, will ensure that trusts must demonstrate an excellent service to all patients, whether the incident occurs in a rural or urban setting.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor ambulance response times *(a)* at a sub-regional level and *(b)* in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. [82398]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Operating Framework provides for central performance management of the A8 and A19 ambulance response time targets at strategic health authority level.

It is for local commissioners to monitor performance at the sub-regional level.

Appointments Commission

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued on the content of vacancies advertised on the Appointments Commission website. [82370]

Mr Simon Burns: The Appointments Commission agrees the content of the vacancies on its website with the organisation seeking to fill the post.

No central guidance has been issued to the Appointments Commission on the subject apart from the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice on Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, which includes some requirements in relation to the advertisement of posts that fall within the Commissioner's remit.

Brain Cancer: Health Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that those affected by a brain tumour receive early diagnosis and treatment. [83550]

Paul Burstow: On 12 January 2011, we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer". The strategy sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy.

To support earlier diagnosis of cancer, the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years, which includes provision for the funding of awareness activity and measures to support general practitioners (GPs) to diagnose cancer earlier. The measures include funding increased GP access to diagnostic tests, including magnetic resonance imaging to support the diagnosis of brain tumours.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care for earlier diagnosis. Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including two brain tumour charities, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

We are currently investigating a possible new metric around the proportion of cancer diagnosed through emergency routes, as there is a relationship between the route to diagnosis and survival rates. We know that a

large proportion of brain tumours are diagnosed through emergency routes and so encouraging diagnosis through other routes would help deliver earlier diagnosis.

Child Protection

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of recommendations in the intercollegiate document, "Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competences for health care staff", relating to competences and training of health care professionals. [83109]

Anne Milton: A stocktake of safeguarding training for national health service staff undertaken by the Department in 2009 identified a need for greater clarity about what training should be received and how frequently.

The updated intercollegiate document "Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competences for health care staff" was developed by 14 Royal Colleges and health professional bodies and published in September 2010. It provides a clear framework which identifies the competences required for all health care staff and focuses upon the education and training needed to enable them to acquire and maintain the necessary knowledge and skills.

As the document states,

"To protect children and young people from harm, all health staff must have the competences to recognise child maltreatment and to take effective action as appropriate to their role. They must also clearly understand their responsibilities, and should be supported by their employing organisation to fulfil their duties."

In response to the stocktake and the intercollegiate document, the Department, strategic health authorities and other stakeholders have worked together to produce a training matrix, to be published online shortly. This will describe learning outcomes, map existing training courses, and outline training pathways for different professional groups, and will complement the intercollegiate document.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that health and wellbeing boards prioritise safeguarding activity in their local areas; [83110]

(2) what *(a)* legislative and *(b)* other steps he plans to take to (i) protect and (ii) enhance the roles of named and designated professionals for safeguarding. [83111]

Anne Milton: Health and wellbeing boards will have an important role in facilitating partnership arrangements for organisations involved in the delivery of health and care. They should ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are reflected through joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies, which will inform the commissioning of services by clinical commissioning groups and local authorities.

The Department of Health is working with local government to support a National Learning Network with early implementer health and wellbeing boards and stakeholders to understand how boards can be effective, including for vulnerable children and adults.

National health service bodies have a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and are statutory members of local safeguarding children boards. These duties will transfer to the new organisations under the Health and Social Care Bill.

In response to a recommendation in Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection, the Department of Health and the Department for Education published on 31 October a work programme, co-produced with key partners, to ensure that effective arrangements to safeguard children are central to the health reforms.

As part of that programme, work is in hand to develop an accountability framework for the NHS contribution to safeguarding children, setting out more detail on the proposed new arrangements. This will be tested with national and local stakeholders. It will set the framework for development both within the NHS and in local partnership arrangements, including the opportunities offered by the introduction of health and well-being boards. It will also inform development plans for designated and named professionals, to ensure professional leadership and expertise in safeguarding children are retained in the NHS system.

In May, the Department of Health published a "Statement of Government Policy on Adult Safeguarding", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, announcing our intention to bring forward legislation to put safeguarding adults boards on a stronger, statutory footing, better equipped both to prevent abuse and to respond when it occurs. In the meantime, organisations should continue to follow the statutory guidance on adult safeguarding set out in No Secrets, with local social services authorities taking the lead on ensuring the co-ordination of adult safeguarding activity.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82543]

Mr Simon Burns: The internal audit assurance work undertaken in the Department in the 12-month period covering 2010-11 was 44.

The following table shows how many internal audits have taken place in the non-departmental bodies (NDPBs) for which the Department is responsible in the 12-month period covering 2010-11.

NDPB	*Number of internal audits that took place in 2010-11*
Alcohol Education and Research Council	0
Appointments Commission	4
Care Quality Commission	15
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	8
General Social Care Council	12
Health Protection Agency	21
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	1
Human Tissue Authority	[1]6
Monitor	9

[1] Includes one follow-up audit (reviewing recommendations made in previous five).

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82572]

Mr Simon Burns: Each Minister has an official photograph, as do the most senior members of staff, which are used, for example, in departmental publications. No member of staff is expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties.

Food Standards Agency

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies have been prosecuted by the Food Standards Agency since 2007 in respect of which no further legal proceedings are active; what the reasons were for prosecution in each case; and what penalty was imposed. [82614]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is the enforcement authority for food hygiene and food safety legislation at approved meat plants and at dairy production holdings. The FSA has provided details of all prosecutions undertaken by them in England, Wales and Northern Ireland since 2007 and by Procurators Fiscal in Scotland following a report submitted by the FSA in the same period. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of access prisoners have to *(a)* prescription medicines and *(b)* psychiatric care. [82658]

Paul Burstow: Offenders are entitled to expect, and receive, the same quality of treatments and services from the national health service as anyone else. All prisons have access to on-site health care teams, which can treat most mental health problems and issue prescriptions required by prisoners.

When mental health treatment cannot be delivered in prison settings, prisoners can be transferred to secure NHS facilities outside of the prison service for treatment under the Mental Health Act. If other health problems cannot be dealt with fully at the prison where the sentence is being served, a prisoner may be moved to another prison where different facilities are available. Alternatively, a specialist may be called in or a prisoner may be taken to an outside NHS hospital but will remain in the custody of the Prison Service.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he provided for prison health care in each of the last three years. [82659]

Paul Burstow: In 2009-10, the Department allocated £234.85 million to fund national health service prison health care in England. In 2010-11, £294.18 million was allocated and in 2011-12, £369.13 million was allocated.

This increased spending follows the Department's provision in 2010-11 of an extra £44.5 million funding for Integrated Drug Treatment Service (IDTS) in prisons in England. In 2011-12, the Department also contributed over £108 million for IDTS, after it assumed responsibility for funding all other substance misuse treatment interventions in prisons and children and young persons' secure settings from the Ministry of Justice.

Health Services: Standards

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken on the effect of continuity of care on patient health and well-being outcomes; and if he will place any such research in the Library. [82426]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health Research Service Delivery and Organisation (SDO) Programme has funded an extensive portfolio of research on continuity of care, including its relation to outcomes. Details of this portfolio, and the final reports of completed projects are available on the SDO website at:

www.sdo.nihr.ac.uk/projlisting.php?srtid=6

Health Services: Weather

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS arising from physical illness or mental health problems which are caused or exacerbated by people living in cold homes. [83587]

Anne Milton: Indoor temperatures during winter can have a clear impact on health. It has been estimated that the annual cost to the national health service of treating winter-related disease due to cold housing is £859 million. The total costs to the NHS of poor health due to cold housing are unknown.

Health: Finance

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the public health budgets in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham will be in each of the next five years. [82743]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), an independent committee including general practitioners, national health service managers, public health experts and academics, to develop a formula for the allocation of the ring-fenced public health grant to local authorities (LAs). ACRA's recommendations and indicative 'shadow' allocations to LAs for 2012-13 will be published in due course. These allocations will enable LAs to support local planning and provide the opportunity to give the Department feedback on the allocation process before it is finalised and they become formally responsible for the delivery of public health services. Actual allocations to LAs for 2013-14 will be made towards the end of next year.

Heart Diseases

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the publication of a quality standard for atrial fibrillation. [82761]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) jointly with the National Quality Board recently ran an engagement exercise on the development of a library of NICE Quality Standard topics for the national health service. The list of proposed Quality Standard topics published as part of this exercise included atrial fibrillation. The engagement exercise closed on 14 October 2011.

Further information on the engagement exercise can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp

An announcement on next steps will be made once the responses have been analysed.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to appoint a National Clinical Director for heart disease and stroke. [82760]

Mr Simon Burns: Future arrangements for the provision of senior clinical advice are being discussed as part of developing the role of the NHS Commissioning Board.

Hepatitis

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve data collection on hepatitis C at *(a)* a local and *(b)* national level; and if he will make a statement. [R] [83019]

Anne Milton: The proposed establishment of Public Health England will bring together in a single organisation the Health Protection Agency with its laboratory surveillance systems, the Public Health Observatories with experience in using hospital episode statistics and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse which oversees drug treatment and harm reduction services for people who inject drugs, who are at greatest risk of acquiring hepatitis C. This will provide opportunities for improvement of hepatitis C data collection at both local and national levels.

Statutory reporting of hepatitis C by diagnostic laboratories testing human samples came into force in October 2010, which will also help improve the completeness of hepatitis C surveillance.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to designate a lead public health observatory to take responsibility for improving the quality and timeliness of information available on hepatitis C services; and if he will make a statement. [R] [83020]

Anne Milton: Public health observatories contribute to planning, commissioning and development of a range of health services. While all nine public health observatories have a lead responsibility, there are no plans to designate a lead observatory for hepatitis C services.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is responsible for surveillance of hepatitis C virus infection and works closely with the public health observatories and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in providing information on and for the prevention, treatment and monitoring of hepatitis C.

The establishment of Public Health England will offer opportunities to strengthen capabilities of the existing information on the burden of hepatitis C, by bringing together HPA laboratory and real time surveillance systems and the public health observatories.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure equal access to treatment for patients infected with hepatitis C. [78214]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 745W.

HIV Infection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is being done to assist early diagnosis of HIV. [83137]

Anne Milton: Increasing the offer and uptake of HIV testing in a variety of health care settings, both primary and secondary, is important to reduce undiagnosed HIV. We are considering the findings of the "Time to Test" report, published by the Health Protection Agency in September this year, which assessed the feasibility and acceptability of routinely offering HIV testing in eight pilot projects that were funded by the Department. We are also funding a three-year project by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (MedFash) to produce an interactive tool to support GPs and primary care staff in offering HIV testing.

The Department continues to fund targeted programmes of work for the groups most at risk of HIV in the United Kingdom and these highlight the importance of HIV testing. Additionally, in February 2011, the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence published its recommendations on increasing the offer of HIV testing to men who have sex with men and black African communities, which we welcome.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to increase awareness of HIV. [83138]

Anne Milton: This year, the Department has invested £2.9 million in a national programme of HIV prevention for men who have sex with men and African communities, the groups most at risk of HIV in the United Kingdom. Raising levels of awareness and knowledge will be key elements of the Government's new Sexual Health Policy Framework, which is currently being developed.

NHS Consultants

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what impact assessment has been undertaken on the effect on the UK's research performance of changes to clinical excellence awards; and if he will make a statement. [83017]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2011, the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration led a United Kingdom wide review of compensation levels and incentives for national health service consultants. The review included the Clinical Excellence and Distinction Award Schemes. Their report is currently being considered by Ministers. No impact assessment has been undertaken.

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of human papillomavirus vaccines against cervical cancer. [83136]

Anne Milton: In 2008, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)—the independent experts that advise the Government on vaccination—completed a detailed assessment of the effectiveness of the human papillomavirus vaccination against cervical cancer.

A copy of the JCVI statement has been placed in the Library.

Liver Diseases

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the publication of the National Liver Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [R] [83021]

Mr Simon Burns: Professor Martin Lombard, National Clinical Director for Liver Disease, is currently leading work with national health service and public health stakeholders to ensure that the response to the rising demand for liver disease services is adequate and supports improvement against the NHS Outcomes Framework and the public health Outcomes Framework (which is expected for publication in the autumn). No publication date for the liver disease strategy has yet been identified.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the merits of a national audit of hepatology services; and if he will make a statement. [R] [83022]

Mr Simon Burns: A census of the medical workforce of consultant gastroenterologists and hepatologists was undertaken in order to assess the current capacity and infrastructure for delivery of liver services in England, and these data are available to subscribers on the NHS Liver Network website.

A copy of "A Census of Medical Workforce and Infrastructure for Liver Disease Strategy: Summary of Findings (Final 2011)" has been placed in the Library.

Mayors: Powers

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Government's consultation on mayoral powers, entitled "What can a mayor do for your city? A consultation" and the Open Public Services White Paper, what assessment he has made of powers of his Department which could be devolved to elected mayors. [82587]

Mr Simon Burns: As the consultation paper makes clear, the approach we are proposing is to look to the cities themselves to come forward with their own proposals for decentralising services and power to the city mayor.

Medical Equipment

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to consider the costs and benefits to wider society of new and existing medical devices in addition to clinical and economic cost-effectiveness when conducting technology appraisals. [82559]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to do so. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently carrying out a review of its 'Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal' and the economic perspective taken in the development of technology appraisal guidance is being considered as part of this review process.

Further information on the review process is available at:

http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/GuideToMethodsTA201112.jsp

Subject to the Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence will, when it is established, be able to take wider societal factors into account in its work where appropriate.

Mental Health

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the findings of the Shaping our Age report by WRVS on loneliness. [82395]

Anne Milton: The Department welcomes the Shaping our Age report by WRVS on loneliness and has noted its findings.

The engagement exercise, Caring for Our Future: Shared ambitions for care and support, was launched on 15 September 2011, and will last until early December. This engagement exercise will cover among its six themes prevention, integration, quality, personalisation, shaping local services, and financial services.

After the engagement exercise, we will set out our response to the Dilnot Commission in the spring, with full proposals for reform of adult social care in a White Paper and progress report on funding reform.

Mental Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the involvement of the voluntary sector in mental health treatment. [82657]

Paul Burstow: There is already a plurality of providers of mental health services, including many from the private and voluntary sectors. The Government want to go further to ensure that patients and service users will be able to choose 'any qualified provider' in certain community and mental health services. It is for commissioners to decide locally which services are appropriate for this approach, following engagement with patients.

Providers must pass a standard qualification process to ensure they meet the appropriate quality standards. The Department has assessed mental health as potentially suitable for any qualified provider, as the needs of individuals are very diverse and a range of innovative approaches may be necessary for ensuring that even the most excluded can be helped to get the care and support they need. The Department has engaged with the mental health voluntary sector while developing the 'any qualified provider' policy.

NHS: Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS staff that will have their pay grade down-banded in the next two financial years. [83586]

Mr Simon Burns: No such estimate has been made.

It is for the national health service locally to decide on the number and pay band of the staff they need to provide high quality, safe and effective services for patients.

NHS: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable his Department has set for implementation and monitoring of its Improving Outcomes guidance over the next two years. [83551]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, sets out actions to tackle preventable cancer incidence, raise public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, support general practitioners to diagnose cancer earlier, expand our cancer screening programmes and introduce new screening technologies, to improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services and to deliver outcomes which are comparable with the best in Europe.

The strategy is backed by over £750 million of additional funding over the spending review period up to 2014-15. While many of the initiatives we have set out will be implemented during this time, others will take longer. For example, it is not anticipated that flexible sigmoidoscopy screening will be full incorporated into the bowel screening programmes until 2016.

Annual reports will be published to measure progress on implementation and on improving cancer outcomes and we are planning to publish the first report this winter. The annual reports will assess progress in implementation against a range of metrics.

Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in *(a)* the Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust and *(b)* all NHS trusts in England in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) so far in 2011. [83610]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in (a) the Swindon and Malborough NHS trust and (b) all NHS trusts in England in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) so far in 2011 (83610).

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of pancreatic cancer (incidence) are for the year 2009. Please note that the number of pancreatic cases may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

ONS does not publish figures on cancer incidence by NHS trust. NHS hospital trusts are commissioned by primary care organisations to provide health services. Whilst primary care organisations have geographical boundaries, hospital trusts do not. For this reason figures on cancer incidence by primary care organisation have been provided instead.

Swindon and Malborough NHS trust is situated in Swindon primary care organisation. In (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 there were 20 and 14 newly diagnosed cases of pancreatic cancer respectively in Swindon primary care organisation.

The table provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of pancreatic cancer in each primary care organisation in England (Table 1) for the years (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009.

A copy of Table 1 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Patients: Nutrition

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the provision of basic hydration and nutrition to all NHS patients regardless of age, gender or diagnosis; and if he will make a statement. [82368]

Mr Simon Burns: All providers of regulated activities are required by law to have policies in place that protect people from the risks of inadequate nutrition and dehydration. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) can take action if these requirements are not being met. The Department welcomes the CQC's announcement that its recent Dignity and Nutrition Inspection programme will be followed up with a further focused inspection of 50 hospitals in the new year (2012).

It is for health and social care providers to develop local nutrition and hydration policies and there are a number of best practice resources and guidelines available to help them do this. These include the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline to help the national health service identify patients who are malnourished or at risk of malnutrition, and the "Essence of Care" benchmarking system which includes "food and drink". The relevant links are as follows:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG32

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119969

While national initiatives can stimulate thinking and offer guidance on best practice, local boards, nurse leaders (including community team leaders) ward sisters and matrons, are key to setting and maintaining excellent standards of hydration and nutrition in their clinical areas.

Primodos

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the drug Primodos; and if he will make a statement. [82414]

Mr Simon Burns: During the last 12 months, the Department has had five inquiries from Members of Parliament and 21 direct inquiries from members of the public about the drug Primodos.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the Government agency responsible for regulating medicinal products and medical devices to ensure they comply with agreed standards of quality, safety and efficacy. The MHRA has also received 12 inquiries directly from members of the public.

A campaigner met with departmental and MHRA officials on 6 December 2010 and 18 January 2011.

Primodos first became available in the United Kingdom in 1959. Primodos contained norethisterone acetate (10 mg) and ethinylestradiol (0.02 mg), to diagnose pregnancy. One tablet was given to women on two consecutive days.

The Committee of Safety of Medicines (CSM—which is now the Commission for Human Medicines), kept the issue of hormone pregnancy tests (HPTs) under review throughout the late 1960s and 1970s.

In 1975 the evidence for an association with congenital defects was inconsistent. However, in view of the emergence of alternative methods of diagnosing pregnancy, CSM took the precautionary step of advising that there was little justification for the continued use of HPTs, including Primodos. In 1978 it was voluntarily discontinued by the manufacturer (Schering) for commercial reasons.

The current position is that, as far as we are aware, no scientific evidence is available that conclusively proves the existence of a causal link between the use of Primodos and congenital abnormalities.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 876-7W, how much his Department has *(a)* spent to date and *(b)* allocated for future expenditure for (i) redundancy payments, (ii) pay in lieu of notice and (iii) additional payments to pensions schemes for staff in primary care trusts. [82769]

Mr Simon Burns: The 2010-11 NHS (England) Summarised Accounts report expenditure of £221 million in respect of "Termination benefits" in primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2010-11. This comprises redundancy payments and pay in lieu of notice. They also report a cost of £2 million for "Other pension costs" which includes additional payments to pension schemes.

The impact assessments published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill entering the House of Lords in September 2011 estimated the costs of modernising the national health service and reducing administration costs. This included an estimate of £634 million redundancy costs for PCT staff associated as a result of the reforms. These redundancy costs include redundancy payments, pay in lieu of notice and payments to pension schemes. So we expect £411 million extra redundancy costs in PCTs on top of those stated in the 2010-11 accounts.

There is no money centrally allocated for redundancy costs in PCTs: it is all managed locally. The Operating Frameworks for the NHS in England 2011-12 and 2012-13 required PCTs to hold 2% of their revenue allocation for non-recurrent expenditure, including the redundancy costs associated with modernising the NHS. This equates to £1,600 million in 2011-12 and, potentially, a similar sum in 2012-13. Not all of this resource will be required for redundancy costs.

Psychiatric Nurses: Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community psychiatric nurses are employed per thousand residents in each *(a)* mental health NHS trust and *(b)* foundation trust area, [82341]

Mr Simon Burns: It is not possible to give the number of community psychiatric nurses per thousand residents in each mental health national health service trust and foundation trust. The last NHS Information Centre annual work force census showed that there were 16,138 full-time equivalent qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff employed in this nursing speciality as at 30 September 2010.

Self-harm

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of statistics on acts of self-harm by *(a)* boys and *(b)* young men; and if he will make a statement; [83424]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females for each age under 25 years have committed acts of self-harm in each of the last 10 years; [83425]

(3) what estimate he has made of the prevalence of self-harm amongst *(a)* boys and *(b)* young men; and if he will make a statement. [83426]

Anne Milton: While figures are collected on the number of hospital admissions and the number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances for self-harm, it is not possible to determine the overall number of people that commit self-harm. Hospital figures would only reflect those cases that require hospital treatment and would not include those treated in a primary care setting or those who do not seek/require medical attention.

The following tables show total finished in-patient admission episodes for males and females for each age under 25 and of A&E attendances for intentional self-harm for 2007-08 to 2009-10.

The prevalence of self-harm is difficult to estimate. "The Adult psychiatric morbidity in England (2007)" survey holds information related to adult self-harm broken down by gender and age and reports that:

"There was no significant difference in the overall prevalence of self-harm between men and women. However, young women were more likely than young men to report having ever deliberately harmed themselves: 17.0% of women aged 16-24 reported this behaviour, compared with 7.9% of men in the same age group. This variation by sex was not evident in subsequent age groups. This corresponds with data from other sources about changes to the sex ratio in the occurrence of self-harm across the lifecycle."

In November 2011, the National Institution for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidelines on "Self Harm (longer term management)".

Total finished in-patient admission episodes[1] for intentional self-harm[2] by sex (including unknown) and age (under 25) for each year 2001-02 to 2010-11. Additionally, total A&E attendances for intentional self-harm[3] by sex (including unknown) and age (under 25) for each year 2007-08 to 2009-10

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

In-patients

Sex	*Age*	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Total for ages 0-24 (inc. unknown)		37,932	34,351	33,852	33,843	31,206	30,769	26,142	24,687	21,906	22,555
Males	0	4	4	2	5	4	6	2	4	2	8
Males	1	11	7	14	12	20	19	18	12	21	15
Males	2	13	12	22	16	25	19	24	22	21	25
Males	3	10	7	7	21	11	11	11	5	11	11
Males	4	3	3	6	5	5	4	4	7	3	9
Males	5	6	3	1	2	5	3	4	7	2	6
Males	6	4	7	4	2	3	1	3	4	4	3
Males	7	4	12	8	1	1	3	2	6	3	5
Males	8	7	3	9	8	8	10	5	10	10	8
Males	9	6	13	8	9	11	15	7	23	9	15
Males	10	8	15	18	16	19	19	16	21	27	32
Males	11	25	35	26	27	38	44	49	58	54	52
Males	12	64	47	82	88	85	81	95	108	97	91
Males	13	100	131	142	145	140	155	174	201	156	181
Males	14	284	222	278	344	343	359	292	337	263	327
Males	15	567	503	532	560	606	533	435	499	469	441
Males	16	655	601	604	618	561	522	495	448	389	394
Males	17	831	822	773	756	660	718	587	500	442	506
Males	18	1,176	1,021	1,071	1,033	990	915	700	653	582	706
Males	19	1,336	1,253	1,206	1,179	1,046	929	826	721	633	813
Males	20	1,293	1,204	1,301	1,132	1,045	1,051	900	821	763	876
Males	21	1,389	1,398	1,228	1,002	1,057	1,033	913	798	762	876
Males	22	1,393	1,289	1,184	1,091	983	951	868	855	834	836
Males	23	1,339	1,063	1,154	1,093	1,002	944	898	909	704	763
Males	24	1,128	1,071	1,046	1,050	965	1,020	952	789	706	724
Females	0	3	3	5	3	8	3	5	4	10	7
Females	1	11	12	6	16	9	23	10	20	12	16
Females	2	14	17	18	8	23	17	11	21	18	19
Females	3	10	9	5	3	6	9	7	12	7	13
Females	4	4	2	3	5	3	5	3	3	6	7
Females	5	3	5	5	4	1		2	3	3	3
Females	6	3	3	3		1	4	4	3	3	
Females	7	8	1	1	6	7	4	3	3	5	3
Females	8	3	4	2	4	7	6	4	9	4	7
Females	9	4	1	8	10	11	12	2	20	4	6
Females	10	7	15	14	13	12	11	19	18	13	15
Females	11	44	45	56	54	60	87	58	73	75	69
Females	12	265	220	237	337	286	308	293	318	306	248
Females	13	900	859	920	1,048	956	1,062	962	1,007	899	813
Females	14	2,172	1,917	1,998	2,069	2,079	2,227	1,973	1,980	1,890	1,678
Females	15	2,962	2,749	2,640	2,960	2,828	2,791	2,507	2,651	2,377	2,198
Females	16	2,500	2,319	2,254	2,427	2,130	2,060	1,780	1,570	1,442	1,457
Females	17	2,491	2,321	2,229	2,195	2,013	1,913	1,542	1,419	1,139	1,217
Females	18	2,512	2,323	2,229	2,236	1,990	1,894	1,545	1,286	1,120	1,278
Females	19	2,664	2,176	2,110	2,202	1,876	1,831	1,480	1,261	1,168	1,126
Females	20	2,389	2,093	2,012	1,938	1,687	1,584	1,342	1,176	978	1,150
Females	21	2,109	1,855	1,770	1,742	1,494	1,569	1,152	1,115	936	1,008
Females	22	1,986	1,606	1,637	1,546	1,535	1,425	1,121	1,029	907	965

Total finished in-patient admission episodes[1] for intentional self-harm[2] by sex (including unknown) and age (under 25) for each year 2001-02 to 2010-11. Additionally, total A&E attendances for intentional self-harm[2] by sex (including unknown) and age (under 25) for each year 2007-08 to 2009-10

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

In-patients

Sex	Age	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
Females	23	1,677	1,568	1,534	1,461	1,309	1,325	1,032	957	843	807
Females	24	1,533	1,481	1,428	1,338	1,214	1,226	969	894	771	721

Accident and emergency

Sex	Age	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Total for ages 0-24 (inc. unknown)		39,784	37,803	36,159
Males	0	34	42	38
Males	1	114	91	94
Males	2	108	111	93
Males	3	77	69	72
Males	4	56	58	39
Males	5	53	35	27
Males	6	23	35	27
Males	7	17	28	28
Males	8	20	22	20
Males	9	28	21	28
Males	10	32	41	33
Males	11	48	58	57
Males	12	103	125	130
Males	13	205	219	224
Males	14	386	379	388
Males	15	659	660	704
Males	16	850	935	884
Males	17	1,281	1,181	1,247
Males	18	1,690	1,693	1,502
Males	19	1,877	1,633	1,650
Males	20	1,836	1,767	1,584
Males	21	1,721	1,646	1,371
Males	22	1,569	1,410	1,319
Males	23	1,483	1,411	1,267
Males	24	1,419	1,266	1,274
Females	0	29	36	34
Females	1	98	92	96
Females	2	90	89	86
Females	3	50	51	61
Females	4	39	35	42
Females	5	20	24	28
Females	6	16	16	29
Females	7	13	21	25
Females	8	15	17	13
Females	9	15	13	26
Females	10	32	30	17
Females	11	47	46	41
Females	12	173	167	186
Females	13	566	548	617
Females	14	1,347	1,284	1,308
Females	15	1,849	1,760	1,695
Females	16	2,211	2,123	2,180
Females	17	2,484	2,427	2,294
Females	18	2,735	2,540	2,441
Females	19	2,498	2,375	2,332
Females	20	2,355	2,166	1,986
Females	21	2,020	2,008	1,812
Females	22	1,783	1,824	1,676
Females	23	1,719	1,640	1,559

		Accident and emergency		
Sex	*Age*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Females	24	1,561	1,468	1,416

[1] *Finished admission episodes*
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
[2] *Cause codes*
A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). ICD10 Cause codes used for Intentional self-harm are X60-84 and Y87.0
[3] *A&E Patient Group*
A code that indicates the reason for the A&E episode. Group 30 indicates those admitted for intentional self-harm
A&E Treatment
Treatment is any intervention that takes place during an A&E attendance. For the financial year 2007-08, providers had the option of using one of three different treatment classifications of codes; A&E treatment codes, OPCS-4 and READ-5. For more information on these, visit HESonline
www.hesonline.nhs.uk
From April 2008, all providers are mandated to use the A&E classification of treatment codes. Analysis of treatment based on A&E HES data are produced using A&E treatment codes unless stated otherwise. Providers are able to submit unlimited number of treatments for each attendance, however, only the first 12 treatment codes are available in HES. Analysis on treatment in A&E HES is based on the primary treatment code submitted, unless stated otherwise. The coverage and quality of treatment data available in 2007-08 A&E HES is poor and therefore great caution is needed before interpreting this in any way. Further information on the quality and coverage of treatment data are available in the 2007-08 A&E HES publication, which is available on HESonline
www.hesonline.nhs.uk
A&E data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by a number of NHS providers across England. The NHS Information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seek to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. Accident and Emergency HES data available for the year 2007-08, which covers attendances reported between April 2007 and March 2008. The A&E HES data for 2007-08 is the first record level national A&E attendance data to be available within HES. The current coverage and quality of A&E data in HES is poor and for this reason the dataset has been labelled as 'experimental'. Allowing access to this data will also help stimulate discussion and encourage trusts to improve quality for subsequent releases. The 2007-08 A&E HES publication addresses some of the key data quality and coverage issues. This report is available on HESonline
www.hesonline.nhs.uk
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Terrence Higgins Trust: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding Terrence Higgins Trust has received from his Department in 2010-11; how much he expects it to receive in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [83422]

Anne Milton: The Department can confirm that Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) received £2,611,750 in 2010-11 and is expecting to provide funding of £2,555,000 in 2011-12.

It should be noted that funding for 2011-12 represents the latest allocations and additional funding could be allocated in the remaining months of the financial year.

THT has received funding from the Department for targeted HIV prevention programmes for MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) communities and for Terrence Higgins Trust Direct. THT has also received funding through the Reaching Out to Carers Innovation Fund, the Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Scheme and for the chairing of INVOLVE (Patient and Public Involvement in Research and Development).

Trauma Centres

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many additional consultants will be employed in major trauma accident and emergency centres in 2012. [83375]

Mr Simon Burns: Local national health service organisations are best placed to decide on the work force needs for their community, according to local circumstances and priorities, with assurance and challenge regionally and nationally.

To better understand the future demand for medical staff and to develop supply strategies to meet this demand, the Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI) will publish its second report on the medical work force in autumn 2011. In 2010, the CfWI published its first report on the medical work force, which included a series of fact sheets for each medical specialty, including the trauma and orthopaedic specialty. A copy of this report has been placed the Library.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which major trauma centres will be operational in 2012. [83376]

Mr Simon Burns: A regional trauma network is comprised of a major trauma centre and eight to 12 trauma units. 22 major trauma centres (MTCs) have been proposed, with locations determined by national health service strategic health authorities. The major trauma units will be located in adjacent trusts.

MTCs live since April 2010:

Royal London Hospital

King's College London

St George's Hospital

St Mary's Hospital.

Proposed from April 2012:

Nottingham University Hospital

John Radcliffe Oxford

Southampton General Hospital
Addenbrooke's Cambridge
Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle
James Cook Middlesbrough
North Bristol NHS Trust
Derriford Hospital Plymouth
University Hospital Birmingham
University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire
University Hospital North Stafford
Leeds General Infirmary
Northern General Hospital Sheffield
Hull Royal Infirmary
Brighton and Sussex University Hospital
Royal Preston.

Designation still under discussion:
Greater Manchester
Merseyside.

Children's MTCs:
Birmingham Children's Hospital
Sheffield Children's Hospital
Bristol Children's Hospital
Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of fractured neck of femur cases which will be transferred to major trauma accident and emergency centres in the next 12 months; [83377]

(2) what advice his Department has given on the transfer of fractured neck of femur cases to major trauma accident and emergency centres. [83378]

Mr Simon Burns: Fractured neck of femur (also known as hip fracture) is a general trauma injury, and fractured neck of femur patients are unlikely to trigger the ambulance service pre-hospital triage that invokes the major trauma pathway. The older person, who is the typical victim of this injury from a fall, would typically follow the local care route to the local hospital for treatment, unless exceptionally they were part of a multiple injuries scenario.

Working Hours: EU Law

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect of the European Working Time Directive on continuity of care for patients; and if he will make a statement. [82422]

Mr Simon Burns: Ensuring service rotas are compliant, and appropriately staffed, and assessing the effects implementation of the directive is having on patients and staff is the responsibility of individual national health service trusts.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of measures NHS trusts are taking to monitor junior doctors' compliance with the European Working Time Directive. [82423]

Mr Simon Burns: It is the responsibility of individual national health service trusts to ensure service rotas are compliant with the working time directive (WTD).

In line with the Government's coalition agreement to reduce duplication and resources spent on administration, the Department reduced bureaucracy for the service by removing the burden of central monitoring of compliance, leaving this role to organisations at a local level.

The last assessment of the WTD was undertaken in January 2010 and reported that 6,564 (nearly 99%) of doctors' rotas were compliant with the directive.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 29 November 2011

TREASURY

Civil Servants: Pensions

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* methodology and *(b)* assumptions were used to calculate the example of a civil service pension used on page 17, Box 3.B case study 1 of Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last, Cm 8214; [83235]

(2) with reference to page 17, Box 3.B case study 1 Table 3.B of Treasury Command Paper Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last, Cm 8214, which civil service pension scheme the example relates to; and how many years pensionable service and which inflation index were used in the calculation relating to the old scheme; [83236]

(3) with reference to page 17, Box 3.B case study 1, Table 3.B options to consider Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last, Cm 8214, whether a reduction for early release before reaching pensionable age was used to calculate the figure for retirement at 61 years six months. [83238]

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many years pensionable service was used to calculate the £12,800 pension payment referred to in his Department's paper Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last (Cm 8214) page 17, Box 3.B, case study 1; [82977]

(2) with reference to the new career average scheme proposals for civil service pension schemes outlined in his Department's paper Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last (Cm 8214) page 17, what assumptions were made in relation to the accrual rate; [82978]

(3) what inflation index was used in the production of his Department's career average Pension Scheme Proposals for the Civil Service. [82979]

Danny Alexander *[holding answers 25 November 2011]:* On 2 November 2011, the Government published "Public Service Pensions: good pensions that last", Cm8214. The document includes several case studies that provide illustrative examples of the impact on individuals if the Government's preferred pension scheme design were adopted. These case studies were prepared for HM Treasury by Hymans Robertson LLP using IFS data and HM Treasury assumptions.

The career paths modelled assume each individual begins work aged 22, has a three year career break and retires at the normal pension age of their specific pension scheme.

The assumptions used in calculating these case studies can be found on page 26 of the document. In addition, pensions taken before state pension age are subject to an early retirement reduction.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department will spend on staff redundancy payments in the *(a)* current and *(b)* next financial year. [83464]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury does not currently have any plans to introduce a redundancy programme.

Wherever possible, the aim will be to manage any necessary staff reductions within HM Treasury and its agencies through natural wastage at no additional cost.

EU Grants and Loans

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received under each budget heading of the EU's Structural and Cohesion Fund in each of the smallest geographical areas of the UK for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82383]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The smallest geographical area within the UK covered by a Structural Funds Operational Programme is Greater London. The second smallest is Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Over the last five years (2007 to 2011) some €470 million of Structural Funds has been allocated to London and some €458 million has been allocated to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects in each of the smallest geographical areas of the UK for which figures are available of UK receipts under EU structural and cohesion funding schemes on *(a)* the number of jobs, *(b)* the number of businesses created, *(c)* household income and *(d)* gross domestic product in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82384]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The smallest geographical area within the UK covered by a Structural Funds Operational Programme is Greater London. The second smallest is Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The data requested under *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)* are not collected for these programmes. The programmes have targets for the creation of jobs and for new businesses assisted to be achieved during the life of the programme. The current Structural Funds programmes run from 2007 to 2013 and projects continue to spend until the end of 2015. The full evaluation of the programmes cannot be completed until this process has been completed.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations' officials and Ministers in his Department have met to discuss alcohol duty fraud in 2011 to date; and how many times meetings have taken place with each such organisation. [83502]

Miss Chloe Smith: HMRC and Treasury officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual

policy making process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Exports: Government Assistance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to increase assistance to British firms exporting to *(a)* non-European Union and *(b)* rapidly growing overseas markets through UK Export Finance; and if he will make a statement. [83187]

Mr Hoban: The Government have already taken such steps. UK Export Finance introduced a number of new products on a pilot basis in the spring, and has been taking steps to improve awareness of them.

UK Export Finance and UK Trade & Investment have been undertaking a market awareness campaign across the UK alongside banks, trade associations and professional bodies, to meet small and medium sized exporters to inform them of the availability of UK Export Finance's products. UK Export Finance aims to make contact with as many exporters as possible through direct contact, the media and other avenues.

Next year the Government will review the new products with a view to identifying whether any changes are necessary to improve their effectiveness and/or financial performance.

Inland Revenue

Mr Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the holder of his Office lost the prerogative power ceded to his predecessors by the Privy Council to reward informers in revenue cases. [83027]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs are empowered to pay rewards by virtue of Section 26 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005.

Mr Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Inland Revenue's Annual Reports 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the organisation charts therein at pages 9, 37 and 37 respectively; on what date the Large Business Office, International Division and Special Compliance Office came together under the control of Commissioner Matheson; on what date the Large Business Office left the control of Commissioner Matheson or his successor Commissioner Hartnett; on what dates the aforementioned changes in organisation were agreed; in what forum they were agreed; who was present on each occasion; what the reasons were for combining the primary task of the collection of tax in the Large Business Office with the policy, compliance and oversight functions accorded to Commissioner Matheson and executed through the Special Compliance Office and International Division; and what the reasons were for returning to the original structure. [83028]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available.

Northern Rock

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reasons an initial public offering was not attempted in the sale of Northern Rock. [83531]

Mr Hoban: A full range of options for returning Northern Rock plc to the private sector was evaluated by HM Treasury, UK Financial Investments Ltd and independent advisers including an Initial Public Offering. Ultimately, it was decided that the sale of Northern Rock plc would generate the best value for the taxpayer.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the advice he received from Deutsche Bank recommending that he proceed with the sale of Northern Rock to Virgin Money. [83808]

Mr Hoban: The deal is expected to complete on 1 January 2012, pending European Commission (EC) merger clearance and Financial Services Authority (FSA) approval.

The Government will consider what information regarding the Northern Rock sale process will be disclosed following the completion of the transaction.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information he holds on how the board of Northern Rock voted on the decision for the sale of the bank to Virgin Money; [83812]

(2) what discussions the board of Northern Rock had on the timing of the sale of the bank to Virgin Money; [83806]

(3) what information he holds on whether the board of Northern Rock discussed the different options for the sale of the bank; and if he will place the minutes of any such discussions in the Library. [83807]

Mr Hoban: Any discussions of the board of Northern Rock plc are a matter for Northern Rock plc.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he asked for or received information on what the remuneration and incentive schemes for *(a)* the Chief Executive Officer, *(b)* the Finance Director and *(c)* any other Executive Directors of Northern Rock will be under Virgin Money ownership; [83813]

(2) what the incentive schemes are for *(a)* the Chief Executive Officer, *(b)* the Finance Director and *(c)* any other executive directors of Northern Rock; [83814]

(3) what information he asked for or received regarding the compensation arrangements that have been agreed for the departing Northern Rock board members. [83815]

Mr Hoban: The remuneration and incentive schemes of Northern Rock plc directors under Virgin Money ownership are a matter for Virgin Money.

Information regarding the remuneration and incentive schemes for Northern Rock plc board members can be found in Northern Rock plc's annual report and accounts 2010 via the following web link:

http://companyinfo.northernrock.co.uk/investorRelations/results/

No decisions have been made regarding compensation arrangements for departing Northern Rock plc board members.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the European Commission on extending the deadline for the transfer of Northern Rock from public ownership beyond 2013. [83200]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* loan period and *(b)* extent of return to the public purse is of the capital instrument lending to Virgin Money to facilitate the takeover of Northern Rock. [83201]

Mr Hoban: Virgin Money will issue to HM Treasury, on completion of the sale, Tier 1 Capital Notes with a par value of £150 million and an annual coupon of 10.5%.

Virgin Money has indicated that it intends the notes would be exchanged, or purchased by the acquirer, upon an Initial Public Offering or sale, without reducing the amount and quality of the firm's capital resources, which would allow HM Treasury to exit its investment.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the contractual arrangements made for the retention of *(a)* branches and *(b)* jobs in the sale of Northern Rock. [83457]

Mr Hoban: The deal is expected to complete on 1 January 2012, pending European Commission (EC) merger clearance and Financial Services Authority (FSA) approval.

As the transaction has not yet been completed, the Government are bound by confidentiality agreements and are unable to release or publish information regarding the sale process. The Government will consider what information regarding the Northern Rock sale process will be disclosed following the completion of the transaction.

Virgin Money has made a number of commitments in its announcement about Northern Rock on 17 November. These are public commitments which are made in writing by Virgin Money.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of the tier 1 capital ratio of Northern Rock in each of the next three years. [83458]

Mr Hoban: The future capital requirements for the combined business of Northern Rock plc and Virgin Money are a matter for the Financial Services Authority and Virgin Money.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what correspondence his Department has exchanged with the Financial Services Authority on using Northern Rock's capital reserves to part-fund its sale. [83459]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials correspond with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such correspondence.

Virgin Money has announced that the combined business of Northern Rock plc and Virgin Money will have a minimum 15% tier 1 capital ratio.

The future capital requirements for the combined business of Northern Rock plc and Virgin Money are a matter for the Financial Services Authority and Virgin Money.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the new convertible debt in lieu of payments in the sale of Northern Rock will be received as a cash receipt during the remainder of this Parliament. [83461]

Mr Hoban: Virgin Money will issue to HM Treasury, on completion of the sale, tier 1 capital notes with a par value of £150 million and an annual coupon of 10.5%.

Virgin Money has indicated that it intends the notes would be exchanged, or purchased by the acquirer, upon an initial public offering or sale, without reducing the amount and quality of the firm's capital resources, which would allow HM Treasury to exit its investment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Europol

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for offences committed in the UK there have been resulting from operations which were co-ordinated in part or entirely by Europol by type of offence in each year since Europol became operational; and if she will make a statement. [83071]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Europol does not undertake operational activity itself. It acts as a conduit for the secure exchange of information between member states and assists with the co-ordination of investigations when requested by member states. It also provides analytical support at the request of member states.

Any investigation remains the responsibility of the investigating member state and it is therefore not possible to provide information on the number of convictions in the UK resulting from Europol activity in each year since Europol's inception.

Arrest Warrants

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been returned to the UK under the European arrest warrant

(EAW) to serve an existing sentence, broken down by type of offence and length of sentence in each year from the inception of the EAW to date; and if she will make a statement. [79213]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Due to the way that the data are recorded, it is not possible to break down these figures by the number returned to face prosecution or to serve an existing sentence in each year, without a manual examination of each individual case file. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

Assaults: Prisons

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accusations of assault on a member of prison staff have been investigated by the police in each of the last five years. [83406]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases considered by the UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit have resulted in an individual being *(a)* removed and *(b)* granted indefinite leave to remain in each month since July 2011. [79435]

Damian Green: From July 2011 to October 2011 the UK Border Agency's Case Assurance and Audit Unit have considered *(a)* 1,074 cases which have resulted in a removal of an individual *(b)* 829 cases leading to a grant of indefinite leave *(c)* 1,906 cases which have resulted in a grant of temporary leave:

	Granted ILR	*Granted temporary leave*	*Cases Removed*
July 2011	290	234	244
August 2011	149	342	317
September 2011	209	670	284
October 2011	181	660	229
Sum	829	1,906	1,074

Source:
Local management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI team. It is not a national statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Bramshill Police College

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans for the sale of Bramshill police college; and what estimate she has made of the likely sale value. [81711]

Nick Herbert: As part of the reform of the policing landscape the National Policing Improvement Agency has commissioned a review of the Bramshill estate.

British Nationality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received any applications to reduce the normal time period required for UK naturalisation in each of the last three years; and how many have *(a)* been received and *(b)* been successful. [83328]

Damian Green: No statistical information is available which would record any requests made by applicants for naturalisation as British citizens to reduce the required residence periods.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), does have discretion over absences from the United Kingdom during the qualifying residence period. Discretion is also available to waive the residence requirements under schedule 1 sections 1(3) and 4(d) of the British Nationality Act 1981 when applicants are applying on the basis of Crown or designated service.

However, no discretion is available to waive the requirement to have been physically present in the United Kingdom at the beginning of the residential qualifying period.

The use of discretion is part of the consideration process.

No statistical information is available to record the use of discretion during the consideration process.

Cleveland Police Authority

Sir Stuart Bell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to Cleveland police authority between 1 May 2010 and 25 August 2011 was of the initial enquiries into the affairs of Cleveland Constabulary authorised by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to be made by the North Yorkshire Constabulary; and if she will make a statement. [83188]

Nick Herbert; The Home Office does not hold this information.

Departmental Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in her Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79543]

Damian Green: All answers to parliamentary questions are the responsibility of the Minister who responds. Clearance processes reflect this.

Deportation

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were removed from the UK in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011 to date. [83838]

Mrs May: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntarily departures from the UK during 2007-10, and January to September 2011.

Removals and voluntary departures[1, 2], January 2007 to September 2011

Number of departures

	2007	2008	2009	2010[3]	January to September 2011[3]
Total removals and voluntary departures	63,367	67,981	67,214	60,244	38,865

[1] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.
[2] Figures include enforced removals, non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed, people departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, people leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by Refugee Action (prior to April 2011, run by the International Organisation for Migration) and people who it has been established left without informing the immigration authorities.
[3] Provisional figures.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been removed by the UK Border Agency to Zimbabwe in each of the last two years. [57878]

Damian Green: There were 363 removals and voluntary departures from the UK to Zimbabwe in 2009; and 414 in 2010. These figures include nationals of Zimbabwe and other nationals who departed to Zimbabwe. The 2010 figure is provisional.

These figures include enforced removals, people departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, people leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes and people who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within 'Immigration Statistics'. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in tables rv.01 to rv.08 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Detention Centres: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children held by the UK Border Agency in pre-departure accommodation were resident in Scotland prior to the enforcement of their return in each of the last 12 months. [82044]

Damian Green: One child who was resident in Scotland prior to their removal was in pre-departure accommodation in November 2011.

No other child from Scotland has been in these facilities in the last 12 months.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children resident in Scotland have been moved to Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre since May 2010. [82045]

Damian Green: Since May 2010 no children resident in Scotland have been moved to Yarl's Wood.

Drug Seizures

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine was seized by UK Border Agency staff in (i) July, (ii) August and (iii) September 2011, at (A) Dover, (B) Heathrow, (C) Gatwick and (D) Stansted. [82256]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* We will be providing copies of all relevant documentation as appropriate to the inquiries that are currently under way into border security issues.

The latest drug seizure statistics that have been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance are contained within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11", published on 10 November 2011 and available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1711/hosb1711?view=Binary

These contain information for the full-year and are not broken down into individual month.

The annual seizures for 2010-11 amounted to 420 kg of heroin, 1,519 kg of cocaine and 14 kg of crack-cocaine.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine has been seized by UK Border Agency staff in each month since May 2010. [82257]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* We will be providing copies of all relevant documentation as appropriate to the inquiries that are currently under way into border security issues.

The latest drug seizure statistics that have been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance are contained within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11" (accessed via the following link), published on 10 November 2011. These contain information for the full-year and are not broken down into individual month. The annual seizures for 2010-11 amounted to 420 kg of heroin, 1,519 kg of cocaine and 14 kg of crack-cocaine.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1711/hosb1711?view=Binary

Entry Clearances

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tier 2 intra-company transfers were issued in *(a)* July 2008 to June 2009, *(b)* July 2009 to June 2010 and *(c)* July 2010 to June 2011. [83858]

Mrs May: Tier 2 and the category intra-company transfers were introduced in November 2008.

There were 10,065, 26,554 and 29,390 visas issued to main applicants under tier 2 intra-company transfers respectively in July 2008 to June 2009, July 2009 to June 2010 and July 2010 to June 2011. There were 3,258, 6,507 and 6,231 grants of extensions of stay to such applicants for the same periods.

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas issued and grants of extension, together with earlier data, are published in the Immigration Statistics release, which is available from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2011/

A copy of the latest release, "Immigration Statistics July-September 2011", will be placed in the House Library.

Entry Clearances: Crime

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas were issued to people *(a)* known to have and *(b)* subsequently discovered to have a criminal conviction in their country of origin in each of the last five years. [83619]

Damian Green: No figures are held for visa applicants known to have a criminal conviction in their country of origin or subsequently discovered to have a criminal conviction in their country of origin after the visa had been issued. It is not possible to provide a breakdown.

European Union Directive

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the merits of seeking to invoke restrictions in respect of the European Union Directive 2004/58/EC under the auspices of *(a)* public policy, *(b)* security and *(c)* health; and if she will make a statement. [83233]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The restrictions on the rights of entry and residence set out in Directive 2004/38/EC have been implemented in the UK by way of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations").

The UK Border Agency uses these restrictions to consider for deportation all EEA nationals sentenced to two years' imprisonment or over, and any EEA national sentenced to 12 months or over for sex, drugs or violence offences. In addition, since the regulations were amended on 1 June 2009 to allow the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to exclude from the UK EEA nationals and/or members of their families on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health, this power has been used to exclude individuals who are considered to be a threat to our national security.

The Government believes it is important to use this principle in appropriate cases in order to prevent abuse of the right of free movement by criminals.

Extradition: USA

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were extradited from the US to the UK in 2010; and how many such people were US nationals; [79270]

(2) how many people were extradited from the UK to the US in 2010; and how many such people were UK nationals. [79271]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* In 2010 there were five people extradited from the US to the UK; and of these there was one US national.

In 2010 there were 12 people extradited from the UK to the US; 10 of these were extradited under the 2003 Extradition Act and two under the 1989 Extradition Act. Of these 12 there were three UK nationals, one dual British/Pakistani national and one dual British/Polish national. For the purposes of the question, we have taken the "UK" as meaning England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland deals with its own US cases.

Entry Clearance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* General Tatiana Gerasimova and *(b)* General Nikolai Shelepanov (i) have been and (ii) will be allowed to enter the UK. [82869]

Damian Green: It is a long-established practice that we do not comment routinely on whether particular individuals have, or have not, been allowed to enter the UK. Any individual wishing to come to the UK must meet the relevant requirements of the immigration rules.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department (i) have had and (ii) plan to have discussions with (A) General Tatiana Gerasimova and (B) General Nikolai Shelepanov. [82870]

Damian Green: We can find no record that Home Office Ministers or officials have met or plan to meet these individuals.

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the daily average cost of detaining an individual on immigration-related grounds. [82106]

Damian Green: The average daily cost of holding an individual in the UKBA detention estate for 2011-12 is estimated at £102.

Immigrants: English Language

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the level of the English test fees set by the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [83083]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Test costs are set by the providers and not the UK Border Agency. While we monitor the provision of tests by our providers, it would not be right to impose fees or limits especially when providers are operating overseas, as we are not experts in the field of language testing. We are confident that our providers give value for money and that costs are proportionate. If information was received to the contrary, we would address this with the provider concerned.

Immigration

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Gurkhas living in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* London have been granted leave to remain in the UK since May 2009. [83574]

Damian Green: The number of Gurkhas granted leave to remain in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency is under five.

The number of Gurkhas granted leave to remain in the London area is 14.

This information has been taken from the individuals' last known address. The postcodes used for Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have been taken from the Office of National Statistics database. All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

Immigration: Liverpool Airport

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK via *(a)* Liverpool John Lennon Airport and *(b)* Liverpool Port when UK border controls were relaxed in summer 2011. [82643]

Damian Green *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* A subset of the latest published data for the first three quarters of 2011 along with figures for 2010 showing recent levels of passenger arrivals at Liverpool are given in the following table. It is not possible to show airport and seaport data separately from information collated centrally. These figures are numbers of journeys and include passengers in transit who do not pass through immigration controls.

Passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom at Liverpool ports including EEA and Swiss nationals, January 2010 to September 2011

	Total passengers admitted
Q1 2010	294,000
Q2 2010	417,000
Q3 2010	611,000
Q4 2010	416,000
Q1 2011	430,000
Q2 2011	617,000
Q3 2011	713,000

Notes:
1. A subset of data in table ad.01.q of 'Immigration Statistics July to September 2011'.
2. Provisional figures.
3. Includes airside transfer/transit passengers of all nationalities who did not pass through immigration control.
4. Numbers are rounded to three significant figures.

Source:
Home Office, Migration Statistics

Information relating to total passenger arrivals are published quarterly in table 'ad.01.q' of the Home Office statistical release 'Immigration Statistics' which is available from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics July to September 2011, will be placed in the House Library.

Knives: Crime

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of knife crime in *(a)* East Lancashire and *(b)* Pendle constituency. [82399]

Nick Herbert: Data for selected offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument are collected by the Home Office at police force area level only, so data are not available for Pendle constituency or East Lancashire. Data are provided for Lancashire police force area.

In 2010-11, Lancashire police recorded 670 offences which involved a knife or a sharp instrument. The selected offences are: attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (with and without intent), actual bodily harm, threats to kill, robbery, sexual assault and rape offences.

Data for homicides involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument are collected via the Homicide Index. The most recently available data are for 2009-10. In this year, the police recorded 10 knife and sharp instrument homicides. Homicide data for 2010-11 will be available from January 2012.

Piracy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 564, on piracy, what the legal status of security personnel stationed on UK-registered merchant ships off the horn of Africa will be; what rules of engagement will be issued to them; and what guidance they will be given on working with UK armed forces personnel deployed off the horn of Africa. [83396]

James Brokenshire: Following the Prime Minister's confirmation last month that the Government now recognise the engagement of private armed guards as an option to protect human life onboard UK registered ships in exceptional circumstances, the Department for Transport, the Home Office and other Government Departments are working to finalise national guidance to shipowners and an interim process by which private security companies can lawfully possess prohibited firearms onboard UK ships in these exceptional circumstances. It is expected that the guidance will be published shortly and a written ministerial statement will be made at that time.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency since November 2010 on metal theft. [83267]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Since November 2010 Home Office Ministers have had various discussions with representatives from the Serious Organised Crime Agency on a range of subjects, including metal theft.

Stephen Lawrence Death Inquiry

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the correspondence files of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry to be made publicly available. [81713]

Nick Herbert: Most of the Home Office papers relating to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry have been released and are already available to the public at The National Archives (TNA).

The historic review programme of the remaining Home Office files for the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is currently being developed. Given the high profile of these papers, they will be included for review and transferred to TNA as a priority as soon as possible.

Metal Theft

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with police forces on the roll-out of Operation Fragment to areas other than Avon and Somerset. [83258]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is in discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers to identify and develop effective approaches to tackle metal theft, including learning from previous operations.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Petitions: Electronic Government

Mr Knight: To ask the Leader of the House what the total cost to the public purse was of design and creation of the Government's e-petition website; and what its projected running cost is for each of the next three years. [83437]

Sir George Young: The Government's e-petition site was designed and created by the Government Digital Service, in conjunction with the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, at a cost of £80,700. The projected technical running cost for the first three years of operation is £32,000 per annum.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Military Bases

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which RAF bases were used for operational flying in the last 12 months; and which aircraft operated from each base. [82329]

Nick Harvey: The Information requested is detailed in the following table.

RAF unit	*Aircraft*
RAF Lossiemouth	Tornado GR4 and Sea King Mk3/3a
RAF Leuchars	Typhoon and Tornado F3 (until March 2011)
RAF Boulmer	Sea King Mk3/3a
RAF Leeming	Hawk T1
DST Leconfield	Sea King Mk3/3a
RAF Waddington	Nimrod R1 (until June 2011), Sentry and Sentinel, King Air
RAF Coningsby	Typhoon
RAF Cottesmore/Wittering	Harrier (until December 2010)
RAF Marham	Tornado GR4
Wattisham Airfield	Sea King Mk3/3a
RAF Brize Norton	Hercules C130J and C130K, C17, Tristar and VC10
RAF Lyneham	Hercules C130J and C130K (until June 2011)
RAF Benson	Puma and Merlin Mk3/3a
RAF Northolt	BAe146, HS125 and Agusta 109
RMB Chivenor	Sea King Mk3/3a
RAF Odiham	Chinook
RAF Akrotiri	Griffin HAR2, Tristar and VC10, Nimrod R1, Sentinel, E3D Sentry, Hercules C130
Mount Pleasant Airfield, Falklands	Hercules C130J, Typhoon and VC10 Sea King Mk3/3a
RAF Valley	Sea King Mk3/3a

Notes:
1. Includes established RAF units and permanent air bases in the UK, Cyprus and Falklands.
2. Excludes the flying training pipeline, operational conversion units, operational evaluation units and the Red Arrows.

Armed Forces: Children

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on improving education provision for children of service personnel based in the UK. [82300]

Mr Robathan: Ofsted's 2010-11 report showed that most children from service families educated in mainstream maintained schools performed as well as, or better than, their non-service peers at the end of each key stage level.

While the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not had any discussions with the Local Government Association (LGA), I recently attended the joint Community Covenant LGA/Ministry of Defence (MOD) conference where schools admissions policy and the additional funding available to schools with service children was raised. MOD officials have also met and continue to meet with LGA representatives to discuss a wide range of issues.

The MOD continues to work with the Department for Education to ensure an effective school admissions policy is developed which takes into account the unique mobility obligations of service families. In addition, the service pupil premium, the £3 million support fund for schools with service children and scholarships for the children of those who have died in the line of duty, have all been implemented recently.

Armed Forces: Credit

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what action the Government is taking to ensure service families have access to affordable credit. [83340]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence officials are working with, among others, the UK's Credit Reference Agencies, Royal Mail and the British Banking Association, to establish a system to improve the validation of credit histories for armed forces personnel. This in turn should improve the ability of the service community to access mortgages and to apply for mainstream credit. We have also encouraged the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Building Society Association to remind their front-line staff of the unique nature of life in the armed forces and thereby help to prevent the service community being disadvantaged.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many married quarters in Portsmouth are unoccupied; and how many of these have been unoccupied for more than three months. [82299]

Mr Robathan: As at 22 November 2011, of the 2,819 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in the Portsmouth area, 309 were void (empty), of which 181 had been void for over three months.

There are 143 void properties which have been allocated to families shortly due to move in. A further 85 are due to be handed back to Annington Homes Ltd on 24 November 2011 which will bring the percentage of void properties in the area below the target management margin of 10% of total stock.

A management margin of empty (void) properties has to be maintained to allow for routine movements of personnel, major improvement works or disposal.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel above the rank of commander are living in married quarter accommodation in Portsmouth; and how many of these are receiving financial educational support for their children. [82301]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally or in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Captain McLeod

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why the conduct of the Commanding Officer was excluded from the terms of reference of the investigation into bullying in the case of Captain McLeod of Oxford. [83191]

Mr Robathan: As I explained in my letter of 29 September to the right hon. Member on this matter, I cannot comment on this case while internal processes are ongoing.

However, I can confirm that the individual concerned and his Assisting Officer are being kept fully informed of progress in relation to the internal processes.

Cybercrime

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* UK and *(b)* international legal framework for the use of offensive cyber warfare capabilities is. [82688]

Nick Harvey: In a military context any such operations would be strictly governed under the well-established law of armed conflict and more broadly by domestic and international humanitarian law. Well-understood concepts such as proportionality of action apply to cyberspace as much as they do to actions in the air, land or maritime domains.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his officials are involved in the development of the Manual on International Law Applicable to Cyber Warfare. [82689]

Nick Harvey: The Manual on International Law Applicable to Cyber Warfare is being formulated by NATO's Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. No Ministry of Defence personnel are engaged in working on this document at this time, although we are aware of its development.

Defence Equipment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many counterfeit electronic parts have been detected on equipment owned by his Department in each of the last five years. [82687]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Quality Assurance Authority has not received any reports of counterfeit electronic parts having been detected on MOD equipment in the last five years.

The MOD's framework of contract conditions requires that our contractors supply 'fit for purpose' products. Recent changes to the framework have included a strengthening of the requirements for Certificates of Conformance, whereby suppliers must attest that their product meets MOD requirements.

The only effective method of assessing whether a particular item is counterfeit is to test it against its original specification. Whenever 'suspect' material is notified to the MOD Quality Assurance Authority (QAA), alerts are raised to all possible users advising them to take the appropriate review action and to test items if necessary.

The MOD is aware that counterfeit products are becoming a serious problem worldwide and is currently working closely with industry experts to raise awareness of the risk of counterfeit parts entering the supply chain. A Counterfeit Awareness Working Group (CAWG) has been established, to develop guidance on the issue to be used across the MOD and industry. The CAWG arranged an awareness event on counterfeit parts for the MOD and industry personnel in July 2011 and is planning another for June 2012.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82547]

Mr Robathan: Between 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2011, Defence Internal Audit completed a total of 144 audits. These include four audits for non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Correspondence

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many letters sent from the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans to *(a)* charities, *(b)* members of the Armed Forces and *(c)* members of the public have been signed (i) personally and (ii) using an electronic or scanned signature since 11 May 2010; [83753]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in his Department on the use of scanned and electronic signatures in letters to hon. Members; [83754]

(3) what proportion of letters were signed *(a)* personally and *(b)* using an electronic or scanned signature by each Minister in his Department since 11 May 2010. [83755]

Mr Robathan: I never use an electronic or scanned signature to sign letters.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 687W.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any disciplinary action has been taken against any official of his Department arising from allegations of bribery on the part of GPT. [82751]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* No disciplinary action has been taken against any official of the Ministry of Defence.

Departmental Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to promote equality of opportunity; and at what cost to the public purse. [82966]

Mr Robathan: The permanent secretary and the Chief of Defence Staff jointly chair a diversity panel and are supported by diversity champions at senior civil service level. We have a small central team, under 10 people, of dedicated professionals who provide the Department with advice and guidance around its efforts to remove or minimise disadvantages and meet the needs of its staff. For example, the Ministry of Defence civil service launched the new 'ability passport' scheme in August this year for use by staff requiring reasonable adjustments. This is not a mandatory requirement but the scheme has been created to assist staff who may change jobs or experience a change of line manager. The armed forces have also recently introduced a number of initiatives for service personnel, including a Naval Service parenting network and an Army women's network. The team also assists the Department in seeking out opportunities to help people who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life.

The cost to the public purse is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unique hits his Department's website received in each of the last 12 months. [83135]

Mr Robathan: Statistics for the Ministry of Defence corporate website:

www.mod.uk

for the last 12 months are as detailed in the following table:

Ministry of Defence http://www.mod.uk

	Unique visitors	*Visits*	*Page impressions/ views*
2010			
November	383,045	662,147	2,289,979
December	307,997	536,901	1,761,668
2011			
January	369,912	631,828	2,175,925
February	374,983	652,598	2,231,375
March	480,517	815,660	2,644,254
April	410,324	694,555	2,204,767
May	404,405	711,973	2,277,439
June	400,104	720,205	2,316,623
July	374,910	677,176	2,209,697
August	419,604	708,158	2,266,321
September	409,696	682,454	2,171,981
October	408,729	669,982	2,206,702
Total	[1]3, 894,552	8,163,637	26,756,731

[1] The annual total unique visitors figure has duplicated visitor records removed as per reporting guidance, to ensure the annual number of unique visitors is not inflated by a simple addition of monthly totals.

These show the number of unique visitors, visits and page impressions and comply with the guidance issued by the Central Office of Information (COI) on the methodology for identifying website usage in response to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Sixteenth Report. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library of the House and can be found at the following links:

COI guidance measuring website usage TGI 16:

http://www.coi.gov.uk/guidance.php?page=229

PAC Sixteenth Report:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmpubacc/143/14302.htm

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80710]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is not able to supply all the information requested in this question, as some figures for the years requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Nevertheless, the MOD can supply the following information regarding judicial reviews. In

the period of the last Parliament, from 2005 to 2010, the Treasury Solicitor's Department have estimated a total of 210 judicial reviews in England and Wales involved the MOD at a cost to the Department of £8,275,790. There were no judicial reviews in Scotland during the period of the last Parliament.

Since May 2010, there have been 81 new cases in England and Wales, at a current cost of £247,149. Of those listed for England and Wales, it is estimated that at present 192 judicial review cases are still open. There is one review in Scotland that has yet to conclude, which to date has cost the Department £10,642.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people his Department employs who are aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years. [83130]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

Strength of UK regular forces by age at 1 October 2011

Age	*Total number*
55+	290
55 to 64	290
65	0

Notes:
1. UK regular forces includes all trained and untrained personnel. Gurkhas, full-time reserve personnel and mobilised reservists are excluded.
2. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, service strength statistics for 1 October 2011 are provisional and subject to review.
3. Due to rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service).

Strength of civilian personnel by age at 1 October 2011

Age	*Total number (headcount)*
55+	18,110
55 to 64	16,690
65+	1,420

Notes:
1. Headcount is a measure of the size of the work force that counts all people equally regardless of their hours of work.
2. The above includes core MOD and Trading Fund personnel but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) personnel and locally-engaged civilians (LEC) for whom data in respect of age are not held centrally.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service).

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82577]

Mr Robathan: Official photographs are taken of Ministers and senior officials when they attend official events and of visiting Ministers and senior military officers of other countries. No central records are kept of the number.

No photographers are employed principally to photograph Ministers or senior officials, but any photographer would obviously be expected to take such photographs, if required, as part of their principal duties.

Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on its prime contracts in *(a)* the south-west, *(b)* the south-east, *(c)* central and *(d)* east in each year since 2003. [82755]

Mr Robathan: The amounts spent on the prime contracts per calendar year are shown in the following table:

£ million

Regional prime contracts	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Central	—	3.4	64.2	117.5	105.0	69.9	76.7
East	—	5.8	41.0	86.1	91.1	64.6	71.6
South-east	—	27.8	83.0	115.0	104.7	99.8	74.4
South-west	49.4	62.3	104.8	102.0	125.5	107.1	102.8

No spend is shown for 2003 as the first of the contracts was only placed in March 2004. The start dates for the contracts are as follows:

East: March 2006

Central: April 2006

South-east: September 2005

South-west: March 2004.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the two regional routine maintenance contracts in Northern Ireland in each year since 2003. [82756]

Mr Robathan: The two term contracts for maintenance and minor new works in Northern Ireland commenced in 2006. Total spend since then is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Total spend (£ million)*
2006-07	11.4
2007-08	22.0
2008-09	21.2
2009-10	21.4
2010-11	19.2

Information prior to the setting up of the term contracts in 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the employees of his Department who will be made redundant in his Department's planned programme of redundancies are *(a)* front line combat personnel and *(b)* logistics personnel; [82322]

(2) what proportion of employees of his Department who will be made redundant in his Department's planned programme of redundancies are female. [82323]

Mr Robathan: The Strategic Defence and Security Review set a savings target equivalent to a reduction in the civilian work force of 25,000, and a reduction of 17,000 posts in the regular armed forces by 31 March 2015. The Department's aim is that, so far as possible, those savings will be made without recourse to compulsory redundancy.

For the civilian work force, allowing for the effects of normal staff turnover and the current civil service recruitment restrictions, it was estimated that the Department would need to agree some 15,500 paid releases between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2014. Accordingly, a voluntary early release scheme was launched in February. By the end of October 2011, 2,589 individuals had left under this scheme. It is important to note that these are not redundancies.

The armed forces redundancy programme is still in its early stages. Gender is not a factor and all service personnel are eligible for service on front-line operations provided that they are medically fit to do so, and could be considered for redundancy.

Following the recently completed first tranche of redundancies, Defence Analytical Service and Advice (DASA) has recently produced a statistical report on the programme. This lists those individuals selected for redundancy by categories including trade and gender. Some 10% are female. The full report can be found on the Ministry of Defence website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

and a copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Secondment

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials employed by his Department have been *(a)* working at and *(b)* seconded to the National Archives at Kew. [82942]

Mr Robathan: None.

Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the 2010 to 2012 Session of Parliament to date. [82969]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received 1,418 written questions for answer on a named day in the 2010-12 Session of Parliament, up to 22 November 2011. Of these, 725, or 51%, were answered on the due date.

The MOD shall be providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance at the end of the parliamentary Session. Statistics relating to the MOD's performance for the 2009-10 Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Ex-servicemen

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department keeps on the career destinations of former military personnel. [82320]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not maintain records of the career destinations of service leavers, and to do so would require service leavers to notify us when they pursue alternative job opportunities. However, a survey of all service leavers six months after discharge is conducted by the Career Transition Partnership and in 2010, service leavers found post-service employment within 44 industry sectors across the public, private and voluntary/community sectors. These industry sectors are diverse and range from accountancy and finance through to sports and leisure.

Falkland Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the Falkland Islands. [83207]

Nick Harvey: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has regular discussions with his US counterpart. The nature of those discussions is confidential.

Germany: Armed Forces

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he provided written notice to the German Government of his plans to withdraw troops from Germany. [82865]

Nick Harvey: The previous Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), wrote to his German counterpart Dr Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg on publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review in October 2010 to inform him of our plans to withdraw troops from Germany.

Since that time, the Ministry of Defence has continued to liaise closely with the German Government, the Federal Ministry of Defence and regional and local authorities as our plans have developed. We have also worked hard to ensure coherence in our announcements to ensure that Ministers, our ambassador to Germany, General Officer Commanding UK Support Command, our Defence Attaché in Berlin and others have been able to brief their German counterparts in a timely fashion.

Guided Weapons

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cruise missiles have been fired in action by UK forces in each theatre in the last five years. [82723]

Nick Harvey: No cruise missiles have been fired by UK forces in Afghanistan or Iraq in the last five years. Cruise missiles have been fired into Libya. I am withholding details of the number of cruise missiles that have been fired, as the disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Legal Opinion

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times his Department sought legal advice from external counsel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* the first six months of 2011; [78061]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal advice commissioned by his Department in the first six months of 2011; [78071]

(3) how much his Department spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* instructing counsel in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) the first six months of 2011; how many times (A) his Department was taken to court and (B) a decision taken by his Department was subject to a judicial review; and what the outcome was of each such (1) case and (2) review. [78093]

Mr Robathan: Information on the number of times that external legal advice has been sought is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The amounts spent by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on instructing counsel via the Treasury Solicitor's department in England and Wales were as follows:

2007-08: £2,924,728

2009-10: £4,062,823

2010-11: £4,511,062.

In the first six months of 2011, we estimate that a sum of £1,811,634 has so far been spent on instructing counsel in England and Wales. Instructing via the Treasury Solicitor's department accounts for the majority of our costs for external counsel.

Information on the amounts spent by the Department on legal advice in Scotland, where the MOD is represented by solicitor-agents, was as follows:

2007-08: £1,088,448

2008-09: £1,399,101

2009-10: £1,370,447

2010-11: £1,034,126.

The Treasury Solicitor's department also reports that the numbers of new cases involving the MOD opened by them in the years in question were as follows:

2007-08: 446

2009-10: 603

2010-11: 610.

The numbers of new judicial reviews in each year involving the MOD were as follows:

2007-08: 24

2009-10: 64

2010-11: 74.

I would stress, however, that analysis of the number of new cases opened in England and Wales needs to be treated with caution as, for example, large group actions are often treated as one case in these figures. In Scotland, there was only one judicial review between 2007 and 2011.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 82-3W, in which I provided the numbers of staff currently employed in the five different legal sections within the MOD. We estimate that the costs of this internal legal advice for the first six months of 2011 to be in the region of £8.6 million. Not all of these staff, many of whom are uniformed, provide legal advice to the Department as the sole part of their duties.

With regard to external legal advice commissioned in the first six months of 2011, figures are not centrally held that would help detail an accurate grand total figure. Nevertheless, I can supply the following information which reflects our major areas of legal expenditure for this period. Fees and disbursements paid to the Treasury Solicitor's department totalled £6.7 million. Sums paid to firms working for the Department's commercial framework panel totalled £2.5 million. Fees and outlays paid to the providers of legal advice to the Department in Scotland totalled £697,929. The RAF legal service also report spending £64,750 on external legal advice relating to employment tribunals during this period.

Members: Correspondence

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many letters from hon. Members to Ministers in his Department received a response within *(a)* seven, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 14 and *(d)* 21 or more working days since 11 May 2010. [83752]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received 9,085 items of correspondence which received a ministerial response between 1 May 2010 and 31 October 2011.

The MOD's database only provides statistics for responses to MPs, Peers, and members of the public to whom Ministers have written. The following figures therefore include all correspondence which has received a ministerial response.

Answered within:	*Number of letters*
Seven working days	2,868
10 working days	5,124
14 working days	6,652
21 working days	7,737
More than 21 working days	8,762

The MOD aims to respond to all correspondence within 15 working days of receipt. For this calendar year up to 31 October 2011, 6,861 (76%) items of correspondence were answered on time.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to correspondence from MPs and Peers. The report for 2010 was published on 28 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1-3WS.

MOD St Athan

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the commercial use of MOD St Athan; and if he will make a statement. [83530]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is currently in discussions with the Welsh Government to consider the further use of the Red Dragon hangar.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation has offered the Twin Peaks hangar to the Welsh Government for use as it is no longer required for defence purposes.

Radioactive Waste

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what response his Department made to each recommendation of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee's Advice to Ministers on the Ministry of Defence's Arrangements for Dealing with Radioactively Contaminated Land,

August 2000; what progress was made in implementation of each recommendation; and if he will make a statement. [82377]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the Department's response to the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee's (RWMAC) report on dealing with radioactively contaminated land, and details of the implementation of each recommendation will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Personnel: Cottesmore and Kinloss

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Royal Air Force and *(b)* civilian personnel have been stationed at RAF Cottesmore in each year between 2005 and 2011; [83353]

(2) how many *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Army and *(c)* civilian staff have been stationed at RAF Kinloss in each year between 2005 and 2011. [83354]

Mr Robathan: The available information for the number of Royal Air Force (RAF) and civilian personnel employed at RAF Cottesmore and the number of RAF, Army and civilian personnel at RAF Kinloss for the period 2005 to 2011 is set out in the following table. Prior to 2007 data on the number of personnel based at certain RAF bases were not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

At April each year:	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
RAF Cottesmore							
RAF personnel	[1]—	[1]—	1,110	1,030	990	960	630
MOD civilian personnel	210	210	210	200	200	210	160
RAF Kinloss							
Army personnel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAF personnel	[1]—	[1]—	1,530	1,460	1,420	1,370	1,020
MOD civilian personnel	340	120	310	310	310	310	290

[1] Not held

Source:
Defence Analytical Services and Advice (Quad-Service)

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or zero in accordance with the Data Protection Act to protect personal information and include trained and untrained personnel.

War Memorials: VAT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* e-mails and *(c)* telephone calls his Department has received on VAT on the construction of war memorials in each of the last 12 months; [83132]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with veteran groups on VAT on the construction of war memorials. [83133]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has received only one letter on this issue in the last 12 months.

The Ministry of Defence has no direct responsibility in this matter but the Department for Culture, Media and Sport administer a Memorial Grant Scheme which refunds the VAT costs incurred by UK-registered charities in the construction, renovation and maintenance of memorials both in the UK and overseas. I have attended one meeting with the Minister with responsibility for tourism and heritage, my hon. Friend the Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose), and the Bomber Command Association where the issue of VAT for the Bomber Command Memorial has been discussed.

World War I: Hartlepool

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to commemorate the centenary of the bombardment of Hartlepool on 16 December 2014; and if he will make a statement. [83220]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 84W to the hon. Member for Broadland (Mr Simpson).

SCOTLAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the effects of the Alcohol Act 2010 in reducing alcohol-related harm. [82864]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers and officials are in regular contact with their counterparts in the Scottish Government on a range of issues including reducing alcohol-related harm.

Departmental Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of his Department are expected to undertake photography of the ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if he will make a statement. [82567]

David Mundell: No official photographs of Ministers or senior officials in the Scotland Office were taken since May 2010. Press Office staff routinely take photographs of ministerial visits and events.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83012]

David Mundell: Since May 2010, the only report published by the Scotland Office was the 2010-11 annual report of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland. This report cost £1,226 to publish; no design costs were incurred. No leaflets or posters have been published by the Scotland Office since May 2010.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to reduce costs in his Department. [83026]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has put in place a strategy to deliver savings in line with the spending review settlement. Progress against this is regularly reviewed by the Departmental Management Board. Savings are being delivered or are planned across the business including on travel costs, accommodation costs and staff costs. For example, travel costs have been reduced by approximately £600,000 to date primarily as a result of my decision to travel to and from Northern Ireland by scheduled airline rather than by private jet which had been the practice of previous Secretaries of State.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cattle: Exports

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been approved for export in each month in the last three years. [83567]

Mr Paice: The numbers of live cattle approved for export in each month over the last three years (2008-10) are as follows:

Number

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	866	1,655	1,142	1,510	753	1,215	1,430	127	292	201	140	701
2009	665	0	96	96	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	14	0

Notes:
1. These figures include both pure bred and non-pure bred breeding animals.
2. Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs.

Earth Summit 2012

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that her Department's preparations for the Rio+20 Summit in 2012 address population stabilisation and sustainable development. [81559]

Mr Paice: The UK Government are committed to strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth, eradicating poverty, tackling dangerous climate change, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

Economic growth is essential to raising living standards, reducing poverty, improving well-being and expanding economic and social choices. We need sustainable development to achieve all this.

The Rio+20 summit on sustainable development (June 2012) is an opportunity to agree ambitious action which will enable us to meet the challenge of global population growth and rising income levels, while ensuring that natural resources and ecosystems are used in a sustainable way for our long-term prosperity. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), is leading the UK Government's preparations for Rio+20, working with EU and international partners.

Lack of choice and access to family planning for many women and girls contribute to rapid population growth, which can impede economic growth and poverty reduction.

The Government, via the Department for International Development, have committed to ensuring at least 10 million more women in developing countries have access to modern methods of family planning by 2015.

EU External Trade: Israel

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to ensure that fresh produce imports originating in Israeli settlements do not benefit from certificates of conformity with EU marketing standards issued by the Israeli authorities. [83229]

Mr Paice: EU rules do not allow the authorities in any third country exporter (such as Israel) to issue valid certificates of conformity with EU marketing standards for fruit and vegetables originating outside that third country (such as the west bank). The situation hypothecated by the hon. Member in respect of imports originating in Israeli settlements on the west bank cannot, therefore, arise. Although EU rules allow third countries to issue certificate of conformity with marketing standards, that does not mean that every import consignment will be accompanied by such a document, since importers can also apply for a certificate from an EU member state's authority. Moreover, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs take steps to exclude the possibility that goods of west bank origin enter the United Kingdom incorrectly described as being Israeli for preferential tariff purposes, since quite different tariff arrangements apply to these two categories of imports.

Sharks: Conservation

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the EU's proposals for a global ban on shark finning. [83332]

Richard Benyon: I warmly welcome the European Commission's robust proposals to tighten controls on shark finning for EU vessels. This represents a major step in the right direction in protecting these vulnerable species. As part of the Commission's consultation on these measures I made the UK's position very clear, and I am delighted that this has been so strongly reflected in the draft proposals. All sharks should be landed with their fins naturally attached to completely outlaw the wasteful practice of shark finning.

The UK is leading the way in Europe on this issue, with shark finning already completely banned on all UK vessels. These proposals will bring the rest of Europe up to UK standards and enable the EU to take a strong stance on this issue internationally.

We will work with the Commission, member states and the European Parliament to ensure that these proposals on shark finning remain strong, and will continue to press for action in international fora to end shark finning universally.

EDUCATION

16-19 Bursary Fund

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* recipients there were of the 16 to 19 bursary scheme in the 2011-12 academic year. [81932]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)who operate the 16-19 Bursary Fund for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 24 November 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ81932 that asked:

"How many (a) applicants and (b) recipients there were of the 16 to 19 bursary scheme in the 2011-12 academic year".

The 16-19 Bursary Fund was introduced in September 2011 (for the 2011/12 academic year) to help the most vulnerable 16-19 year-olds continue in full-time education. A bursary fund allocation is made direct to schools, colleges, academies, and other training providers. The fund consists of two parts - a payment of up to £1,200 to a small group of the most vulnerable students, and a discretionary fund for schools, colleges, academies, and training providers to distribute to students who face other financial barriers to staying on in education.

Schools, colleges, academies, and training providers are responsible for determining their own criteria for eligibility for discretionary bursaries, and for deciding the level of awards. This is the first year of the scheme and therefore we do not yet hold data about the number of young people that are currently benefiting from the bursary scheme. At the end of the academic year, we will be collecting a management information return and the Department for Education has commissioned an end of year evaluation study.

We have published details of the allocations of funding to schools, colleges and other providers, arranged by upper tier local authority, and this can be found at the following website:

http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/funding/allocations/

Academies

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools will have become academies by 1 September 2011; what the name is of the local authority to which each formerly belonged; how many pupils are on the roll of each; how much each received (i) in total and (ii) per capita in (A) local authority central spend equivalent grant and (B) special educational needs funding in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much each is to receive from the Young Persons Learning Agency in respect of (1) insurance and (2) conversion grant. [68101]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* As of 1 October, 1031 schools had converted to academy status, of which 288 were primary schools, 708 secondary schools, 21 middle deemed secondary and 14 special schools.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11, can be found on the DFE academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

A copy of a table giving, for each academy that has converted to an academy by 1 September 2011 as per the original request, a breakdown of pupil numbers, funding received and funding projected has been placed in the House Libraries. Please note that the financial information provided in the table does not include the October figures and is unaudited, and therefore subject to change.

In certain respects the information given for September 2011 converters is incomplete. This is because it was not recorded by all local authorities on their section 251 returns, and so is being collected separately. This may lead to some adjustment of the academies' allocations for academic year 2011/12.

The Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) is the additional money to cover those central services that the LA no longer provides. LACSEG is an ongoing grant. It is calculated using data from local authority budget statements and reflects local decisions about how funding is prioritised and delegated to schools. This ensures that academies are funded on the same basis as local maintained schools.

Ministers are determined to have a funding system that is fairer, so that a school or academy in one area will have comparable funding to a school or academy with similar circumstances in another area. In a new funding system, we would be much clearer about the functions we expect local authorities to provide for maintained schools but which would transfer to academies.

There is no pre-determined amount of funding provided to academies for insurance. The cost of insurance is paid by the academy and the costs of buildings and contents, employer's and public liability and business interruption insurance is reimbursed by the Young People's Learning Agency on provision of a valid invoice.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when the Minister of State for Children and Families will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Coventry South of 25 October 2011. [82891]

Tim Loughton: The Minister for Children and Families, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), replied to the hon. Member on 23 November. The hon. Member's constituent also wrote directly to the Department on 23 October and 4 November on the same issue, and the Department responded on 3 November and 17 November respectively.

Primary Education: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to provide funding for an increase in primary school places in Bristol from 2013. [82525]

Mr Gibb: Last year the Department announced capital funding of £800 million in 2011-12 for the provision of pupil places. Bristol city council's share of this 'basic need' allocation was £9.36 million and we have stated that local authorities can expect similar levels of funding from 2012-13 through to 2014-15. An announcement about capital programmes and allocations from 2012-13 will be made in due course.

Earlier this year, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced a further £500 million of capital funding in 2011-12 for those areas where rising pupil numbers are leading to the greatest pressure for school places. Bristol city council has been allocated a further £18.32 million from this fund. Basic need funding is not ring-fenced, in order to give local authorities flexibility over the timing of spend.

Pupil Exclusions

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were excluded for *(a)* physical and *(b)* verbal abuse or assault by constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [78991]

Mr Gibb: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Any violence or verbal abuse in .school is totally unacceptable. The terms 'physical assault' and 'verbal abuse', as collected in the school census, cover a range of offences. Full details on the reasons for exclusion covered under each of these terms are published as part of the Schools Census Guidance. The latest guidance can be found at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schooladmin/a0076969/school-census-2012

Pupils: Absenteeism

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were absent from school for at least *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 15 per cent. and *(c)* 20 per cent. of the school year in each (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) parliamentary constituency, in the latest year for which figures are available. [79221]

Mr Gibb: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Higher Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of schools and colleges are officially linked to at least one higher education institution in England. [79762]

Mr Gibb: The total number of schools and colleges which have official links to higher education institutions in England is not known.

University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are being set up to provide 14 to 19-year-olds with a high quality technical education through partnerships with universities and employers. Two UTCs have already been opened and 17 are currently in the development phase. All have their own university partner.

Many more schools will have links to higher education institutions for various reasons, including the delivery of initial teacher training courses. However, no records are kept of the number of schools involved.

Schools: Industrial Disputes

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of students in Pendle constituency that would be affected by strike action on 30 November 2011. [83498]

Mr Gibb: While the Department has asked local authorities to provide an estimate of school closures on 30 November, it is not possible to predict at this time the number of pupils in any particular area who might by affected by industrial action.

Schools: Rural Areas

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that small rural schools are not adversely affected by future pupil funding reviews. [82605]

Mr Gibb: Our recent consultation on reforming the school funding system looked carefully at how rural schools should be supported. The Department for Education is considering responses to the consultation and discussing options with interested parties, including those who represent rural areas, before we decide how to proceed. We aim to consult on more detailed proposals in the spring.

Secondary Education: Finance

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total funding is for 11-16 education *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in (i) Birmingham, (ii) Newcastle, (iii) Wakefield, (iv) Manchester, (v) Leeds, (vi) Liverpool, (vii) Coventry, (viii) Bristol, (ix) Sheffield, (x) Bradford, (xi) Leicester and (xii) Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82767]

Mr Gibb: There are no detailed allocations planned on a local authority basis for the next five years. The Spending Review announced total schools funding of:

	£ million
2012-13	36,970
2013-14	37,977
2014-15	39,023

Per pupil funding for each local authority for 2012-13 will be announced shortly. School funding allocations for local authorities for 2012-13 are dependent on pupil numbers recorded in the January 2012 schools census. Allocations to local authorities from 2013-14 onwards are dependent on Government decisions on school funding reform.

Teachers: Pensions

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 562W, on teachers: pensions, when the *(a)* detailed consideration of the implications of the new discount rate will finish and *(b)* revaluation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme be published. [81842]

Mr Gibb: The Government announced in the Budget in 2011 that the appropriate discount rate for calculating unfunded public service pension contribution rates should be based on the long-term expectations of gross domestic product (GDP) growth. A discount rate of 3% above CPI will therefore be adopted.

The discount rate feeds into scheme valuations, which are currently suspended. Valuations of public service pension schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme, are dependent on many assumptions which are currently under review as part of discussions on implementing Lord Hutton's proposals. It would not, therefore, be a sensible use of public funds to undertake actuarial valuations at this time.

JUSTICE

Armed Forces Covenant

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how his Department plans to *(a)* interpret and *(b)* apply the Military Covenant under the terms of the Armed Forces Act 2010. [83222]

Mr Djanogly: The Armed Forces Act 2011 places a specific requirement on the Secretary of State for Defence to report on the effects of the operation of inquests on service personnel and others in the annual covenant report.

The Ministry of Justice will work closely with the Ministry of Defence in preparing this report, as well as continuing to work closely with the MOD's Defence Inquests Unit on day-to-day matters regarding investigations into deaths of service personnel.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible; [83766]

(2) what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83767]

(3) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83768]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) supports the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in achieving full compliance with UK egg industry legislation.

(a) In accordance with EU Council Directive 1999/74/EC, which prohibits the use of conventional cages from 1 January 2012, the Department has ensured that all egg-producing birds are from improved enriched colonies. The Department's supplier of foodstuff to Her Majesty's Prison Service, which accounts for 99.6% of direct food procurement within the Ministry of Justice, became compliant in 2010. The Department does not purchase liquefied eggs under the current foodstuff contract.

All egg products supplied to the MOJ must comply with the relevant UK and EU legislation. Suppliers are required to provide products that are sourced in compliance with EC regulations and from assured providers under animal welfare conditions that are compatible with the UK animal welfare regulations.

(b) Information regarding public bodies is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is committed to the Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food. This encourages the public sector to procure food in a manner that promotes sustainable development and does not discriminate against local suppliers and UK producers.

(a) For the latest period for which figures are available, the proportion of domestically-produced food used (by value) is approximately 56%.

The Department and its contractors continue to look for opportunities to enable domestic producers to compete for supply contracts while seeking to achieve value for money. The Department encourages its suppliers to procure food from UK producers where possible.

(b) Information regarding public bodies is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is committed to be compliant with the GBS for food and catering.

The Department's suppliers are obligated to source in line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) policy on GBS to ensure supply achieves value for money.

Examples where the Department meets the mandatory food and catering services standards include the following:

(1) Animal welfare: 100% of eggs (in shell) sourced from systems that do not use conventional cages. If from a caged system, enriched cages are used.

(2) Fish: 100% seafood procured compliant with sustainability standards indicated by Marine Conservation Society's or Marine Stewardship Councils list of fish to eat.

(3) Recycling: There is a mandatory agreement for prisons which account for 99.6% of direct food spend within the Department for the disposal of waste oils and fats through the controlled waste regulations.

(4) All new contracts are tendered to reflect GBS policy.

(b) Information regarding public bodies is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Legal Aid Scheme

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what overall assessment rating the Regulatory Policy Committee gave for the impact assessments on the proposed reforms to legal aid. [83278]

Mr Djanogly: The impact assessments on the proposed reforms of legal aid were not sent to the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) for external scrutiny. Legal aid arrangements are contractual arrangements between the Ministry of Justice and lawyers and the impact assessments are therefore not within scope for scrutiny by the RPC.

Parole

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases before the Parole Board were awaiting a hearing on 1 January in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11 inclusive; [83747]

(2) in how many cases of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences the Parole Board *(a)* directed release, *(b)* did not direct release and *(c)* adjourned or deferred a decision in each year from 2004-05 to 2010-11 inclusive. [83748]

Mr Blunt: Figures for years prior to 2009-10 are not available as the Parole Board did not record total number of cases awaiting a hearing in these years.

Details of the cases awaiting hearing that are available are in the following table.

As at 1 January each year	*Cases awaiting a hearing*
2009	2,237
2010	1,702
2011[1]	1,366

[1] Projected.

Indeterminate prisoners are made up of prisoners receiving a "life" sentence 'or' an indeterminate sentence (IPP) for public protection (IPP).

The following tables outline the changes in cases referred to the Parole Board for either category.

Life sentence prisoners

	Cases considered	*Release directed*	*Did not direct release*	*Adjourned or deferred*
2004-05	1,341	290	896	155
2005-06	1,195	270	723	202
2006-07	1,421	207	830	384
2007-08	1,423	207	937	270
2008-09	1,272	194	852	226
2009-10	1,530	172	1,171	187
2010-11	2,152	330	1,550	272

IPP prisoners

	Cases considered	*Release directed*	*Did not direct release*	*Adjourned or deferred*
2004-05	0	—	—	—
2005-06	0	—	—	—
2006-07	74	6	44	24
2007-08	253	17	192	44
2008-09	556	43	390	123
2009-10	1,432	68	1,197	167
2010-11	2,261	140	1,901	220

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of work capability assessment decisions made by Atos were overturned on appeal in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Newport East constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [83625]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

The following tables show the proportion of employment and support allowance appeals cleared at hearing, which were found in favour of the appellant in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the Langstone venue in September 2011 (the latest date for which statistics have been published) and in the first two quarters of 2011-12. The Langstone Tribunal venue hears appeals from the Newport East constituency as well as other nearby locations.

Outcomes of ESA (WCA-related) appeals, 1 to 30 September 2011

	Number of cases cleared at hearing	*Number of DWP decisions upheld*	*Percentage upheld*	*Number decided in favour of appellant*	*Percentage in favour*	*Other*	*Percentage other*
Wales	840	450	50	390	50	4	0
Langstone	30	20	70	10	30	0	0

Outcomes of ESA (WCA-related) appeals, 1 April to 30 September 2011

	Number of cases cleared at hearing	*Number of DWP decisions upheld*	*Percentage upheld*	*Number decided in favour of appellant*	*Percentage in favour*	*Other*	*Percentage other*
Wales	4,600	2,600	60	2,000	40	30	0
Langstone	320	190	60	130	40	3	0

Note:
The data are taken from management information.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an estimate of the amount of revenue lost to the creative industries due to free pitching in the last five years; if he will estimate the likely losses over the comprehensive spending review period; and what steps he is taking to eliminate this practice. [83750]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not made any assessment of free pitching along these lines, and the advertising industry has not put this forward as one of its top concerns. If it wishes to do so in future, the creative industries council would be the right forum to do so. In general we are in favour of industry setting out guidelines for its own best working practices.

Arts Council England

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which organisations in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Birmingham received Arts Council England funding in the latest period for which figures are available. [82742]

Mr Vaizey: In the financial year 2010-11, 609 organisations in the West Midlands region received either regular funding or funding through the "Grants for the Arts" programme from Arts Council England. Applicants can apply for up to £100,000 for regional activity, or above with prior permission.

In the financial year 2010-11, 203 organisations in the local authority region of Birmingham received either regular funding or funding through the "Grants for the Arts" programme.

The names of these organisations will be deposited in the Library of both Houses.

Cricket: Disability

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding his Department and incorporated public bodies have allocated to support disabled people to play cricket between 2009 and 2013; and on what projects such funding has been spent to date. [83262]

Hugh Robertson: As the National Governing Body for cricket, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has spent around £1,217,580 on disability cricket since funding was awarded in 2009. Of this, £608,709 is Sport England funding and £608,709 the ECB's own funding.

As part of the ECB's commitment to develop disability cricket it has recently set up regional training camps for the deaf and launched a Visually Impaired Talent Development programme. The ECB has set out its strategy for disability cricket in the document 'Disability Cricket Vision 2009-2013' which can be found at the following link:

http://static.ecb.co.uk/files/ecb-disability-cricket-vision-2009-2013-10730.pdf

Also, the ECB is one of the signatories of the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Sports Broadcasting, which aims to encourage the reinvestment of revenues from television broadcasting rights of major sporting events to community sport. The ECB is planning to commit expenditure into grassroots development that amounts to more than 30% of its net UK TV broadcasting revenue.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases; [83883]

(2) what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83918]

John Penrose: The information requested on funded organisations that brought proceedings against this Department in the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The Department does not record centrally the number of unsuccessful cases applied for and costs paid.

Where the Department is entitled to recover costs from a person who was unsuccessful in bringing a challenge, the policy is to do so. Where a challenge is abandoned part way through, there is often no entitlement to recover costs.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible; [83799]

(2) what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83800]

(3) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83801]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain), on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 611-12W.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been identified using those procedures in the last year. [82313]

Mr Vaizey: The Department is fully committed to Government policy on procurement which has two basic objectives:

To achieve continuing improvement in value for money based on whole life cost and quality

To enhance the competitiveness of suppliers through the development of procurement systems and practices

We follow the Transparency regulations in order to maximise competition. Also, we ensure that all procurements that can be advertised with a value of £10,000 are advertised via the Contracts Finder website and then tendered via BIP—Delta (an e-procurement tool).

Further information about the Department's procurement policy can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/working_with_us/973.aspx

The Government have announced a specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector which means that Departments are no longer required to report against efficiency targets. The Department does not, therefore, specifically record savings secured through its procurement process.

Design: Government Assistance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to assist design companies to secure work with international clients. [83749]

Mr Vaizey: The design industry is one of the UK's strengths, and something which we are already renowned for across the world. Design is a priority sector for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), which has a programme in place to assist UK design companies wishing to expand into overseas markets. This includes running a series of overseas trade missions to priority markets such as South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Mexico this year. In addition, Lord Marland recently led missions to China and Brazil to coincide with the Beijing and Brazil Design Weeks. UKTI also supports groups of design companies wishing to exhibit at key overseas trade fairs such as the Milan Furniture Fair, Maison et Objet in Paris and International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York, and works closely with industry bodies, such as British Design Innovation and the Design Business Association, to ensure that design companies are well informed about overseas opportunities.

UK School Games

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the future role of UK School Games; and if he will make a statement. [83825]

Hugh Robertson: The sixth and final UK School Games took place in Sheffield over 1-4 September this year. The new School Games national finals will continue, and build on, the tradition of a multi-sport, multi-day national event for elite young athletes. The first School Games national finals will take place over 6-9 May 2012.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on how many records were set at UK School Games at *(a)* national and *(b)* international level in each year since the Games began; and if he will make a statement. [83826]

Hugh Robertson: Record times or performances could be measured only in the sports of athletics, cycling and swimming, as performance was measured in different ways in the other sports that made up the UK School Games (which had expanded to 12 sports by 2011 from the original five in 2007). Records set included:

one world record

two junior world records

five junior national records.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many school children participated in UK School Games at *(a)* intra-school *(b)* inter-school, *(c)* county and *(d)* national level in each school year since the Games began; and if he will make a statement. [83827]

Hugh Robertson: The UK School Games was an annual national event that ran from 2006 to 2011. The number of school children participating at each event was:

Glasgow 2006: 1,100

Coventry 2007: 1,350

Bristol and Bath 2008: 1,470

South Wales 2009: 1,523

Newcastle 2010: 1,530

Sheffield 2011: 1,580.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what evaluation he has made of the role of UK School Games in increasing participation in *(a)* sport and *(b)* competitive sport; and if he will make a statement. [83828]

Hugh Robertson: The UK School Games succeeded in its objective of being an excellent showcase event for elite young athletes. However, I am committed to giving children of all ages and abilities the opportunity to participate in competitive sport through the new School Games, reviving the culture of competitive sport in schools.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the partners of UK School Games regarding future participation in school sports; and if he will make a statement. [83829]

Hugh Robertson: To deliver the new School Games, I am working with a range of national partners, including Sport England, ParalympicsGB, the Department of Health, the Department for Education and the Youth Sport Trust, which was responsible for delivery of the UK School Games.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces: Young People

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the range and level of educational qualifications offered to armed forces

recruits aged 16 to 18 and their conformity with the minimum standards recommended by the Wolf Review of Vocational Education. [82877]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister with responsibility for schools, the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr Gibb), on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 704W.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr Crausby: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83036]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have made 31 regional visits between 1 November 2010 and 25 November 2011. I have also made many other regional visits in my capacity as a party leader. The breakdown of official visits by region can be found as follows:

Region/nation	*Frequency*
East	2
East midlands	3
Isle of Man	1
North-east	2
North-west	3
Northern Ireland	0
Scotland	2
South-east	2
South-west	1
Wales	1
West midlands	6
Yorkshire and Humberside	8
Total number of visits	31

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Closures

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses in *(a)* Preston constituency and *(b)* Lancashire have ceased trading since 1 June 2010. [83900]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many businesses in (a) Preston constituency and (b) Lancashire have ceased trading since 1 June 2010. [83900]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, unfortunately these statistics are only available up to the calendar year 2009. The results for 2010 will be released on 6th December 2011.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [75111]

Mr Maude: The information in the format requested is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Since January 2011 the Cabinet Office has awarded the following contracts above the value of £10,000 which have been published on Contracts Finder.

www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

	Small and medium sized enterprise		*Large enterprise*	
Month	*Number*	*Maximum value (£)*	*Number*	*Maximum value (£)*
January	0	n/a	2	[1]50,000,000
				118,000
February	1	30,000	0	n/a
March	3	4,876,853	6	100,000
		30,456		98,488
		24,840		15,000
				41,190
				112,979
				[2]0
April	7	454,000	2	25,000
		13,725		1,000,000
		56,015		
		52,917		
		67,989		
		80,000		
		26,170		

Month	Small and medium sized enterprise		Large enterprise	
	Number	Maximum value (£)	Number	Maximum value (£)
May	1	37,913	1	38,000
June	2	40,000	1	18,909
		24,000		
July	0	n/a	3	15,540
				44,750
				[1]400,000,000
August	2	51,540	3	12,000
		[3]1,200,000		108,420
				93,285
September	4	63,000	5	100,760
		15,600		55,000
		84,000		250,000
		84,000		75,000
				18,432
October	1	[1]1,500,000	0	n/a

[1] Represents estimated total value of pan-government business.
[2] No value attributed. Actual value will depend on the amount of demand for the services supplied through the contract.
[3] Represents estimated value of business placed through framework covering six suppliers, one of which is a large enterprise.

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been identified using those procedures in the last year. [82315]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office ensures value for money on its purchases through the use of pan-government deals for relevant goods and services that have been set up by the Government Procurement Service (GPS) and other Departments to enable it to exploit the benefits of Government's aggregated purchasing power in order to achieve better prices. Further savings are expected to be realised from the Government-wide efficiency programmes which the Cabinet Office has initiated, including:

the centralising of all common commodity procurement through contracts awarded and managed by GPS to maximise public sector buying power;

the re-negotiation of deals with Government's largest suppliers; and

the use of the Dynamic Marketplace for lower value procurements which will open up opportunities for SMEs to win Government business.

Savings achieved have contributed to a reduction in the Department's procurement expenditure overall between 2009-10 and 2010-11 of almost 3%.

Government Departments: Finance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on the cross-Government review of advice funding in which other Government Departments are involved; which advice organisations have been consulted; and when the review will report its findings. [83842]

Mr Hurd: The Government announced on 21 November that the Cabinet Office would be conducting a review to ensure that people continue to have access to good quality free advice services in their communities.

Work has now started on the review which will conclude early next year with recommendations to Ministers, and will build on work that has already been done. The review is considering the funding environment for free advice services, likely levels of demand, and how Government can play a positive role.

In conducting the review, the Cabinet Office is seeking the input of a wide range of advice sector stakeholders including national and local advice organisations, representative bodies, umbrella organisations for the sector, and other organisations that play an influential role in determining the landscape of free advice provision. We are doing this through individual stakeholder meetings, roundtable discussions with key sector representatives, and by taking account of recent, relevant research in this area.

National School of Government

Andrew Miller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether the National School of Government's information security "Protecting Information" course includes training in the *(a)* use of privacy panels and *(b)* circumstances when privacy screen panels should be used; [83670]

(2) whether the National School of Government provides visual data security training; [83671]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 368W, on Departmental Data Protection, what guidance the Cabinet Office issues to other Government Departments on *(a)* the use of data privacy panels and *(b)* training in the circumstances in which privacy screen panels should be used; [83672]

(4) whether the Government have undertaken an evaluation of the risks posed by visual data security breaches across central Government Departments. [83673]

Mr Maude: The Cross Government Data Handling Review 2008 requires that all civil servants undergo data security training on an annual basis. This training can be given through a variety of ways including:

induction courses;

regular briefing and training events;

articles on Departments' intranet sites;

awareness campaigns; and

intermittent reminders as and when considered necessary.

Visual data security is one element of the National School of Government "Introduction to Information Assurance" course, and is specifically covered under IS1 Risk Assessment Process as part of the "Information Assurance Standards IS1 and IS2" course. The National School of Government website also hosts the Cabinet Office sponsored e-learning course "Protecting Information" which includes a number of different 'role dependent' modules.

The Government have a number of measures in place to safeguard sensitive and/or protectively marked (classified) information. The Cabinet Office co-ordinates protective security policy for the whole of Government including the rules, procedures and technical controls required to ensure the protection of sensitive information. Mandatory requirements and best practice guidelines are set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/spf.aspx

The framework includes guidance to reduce the risk that sensitive information could be overlooked when laptops or other media devices are used in open plan office environments or public spaces.

Security policy officials and the national technical authorities keep all security threats under constant review and the Security Policy Framework guidelines are regularly updated.

Public Houses

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public houses *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationally have closed in each of the last five years. [83603]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many public houses (a) in Jarrow constituency, (b) in South Tyneside, (c) in the North East and (d) nationally have closed in each of the last five years. [83603]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

ONS has no statistics of pubs, however, the table below contains the latest statistics which show the number of enterprise deaths in the constituency of Jarrow, district of South Tyneside, North East region and the UK classified to public houses/bars.

Count of enterprise deaths classified to public houses/bars from 2005-09

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North-east	United Kingdom
2005	10	20	405	9,080
2006	10	20	335	7,915
2007	10	20	340	7,900
2008	10	20	360	7,325
2009	10	20	315	7,725

Note:
The above figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, to avoid disclosure.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public houses have been owned by a pub company *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationally in each of the last five years. [83604]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many public houses have been owned by a pub company (a) in Jarrow constituency, (b) in South Tyneside, (c) in the North East and (d) nationally in each of the last five years, [83604]

ONS does not produce statistics on the number of public houses owned by a pub company. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public houses owned by a pub company *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationally have closed in each of the last five years. [83605]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many public houses owned by a pub company (a) in Jarrow constituency, (b) in South Tyneside, (c) in the North East and (d) nationally have closed in each of the last five years. [83605]

ONS does not produce statistics on the number of public houses owned by a pub company. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public houses there are *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the north-east and *(d)* nationally. [83607]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many public houses there are (a) in Jarrow constituency, (b) in South Tyneside, (c) in the North East and (d) nationally. [83607]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise actives are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

ONS has no statistics on pubs, however, the following table contains the latest statistics, which show the number of active enterprises, in the constituency of Jarrow, district of South Tyneside, North East region and the UK, classified to public houses/bars.

Count of active enterprises classified to public houses\bars from 2005 to 2009

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*United Kingdom*
2005	50	120	2,145	52,600
2006	50	120	2,060	51,590
2007	55	120	2,130	51,720
2008	50	120	1,995	48,150
2009	45	105	1,815	45,580

Note:
The above figures have been rounded to the nearest five, to avoid disclosure

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many tied publicans *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationally have managed their pub for more than three years. [83606]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many tied publicans (a) in Jarrow constituency, (b) in South Tyneside, (c) in the North East and (d) nationally have managed their pub for more than three years. [83606]

ONS does not produce statistics on the number of tied publicans. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Public Sector: Equality

Mr Brady: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of equality and diversity training in the public sector in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will take steps to encourage efficiency savings of such expenditure. [83334]

Mr Maude: Information on the cost of equality and diversity training across the public sector as a whole is not held centrally.

However the Government have taken steps to reduce the cost of generic learning and development by launching Civil Service Learning, a cross-Government resource that will centrally procure all generic learning and development for the civil service.

Equality and diversity training is part of this provision. As we continue to establish Civil Service Learning, an e-learning course will be provided to cover this area for all civil servants. No specific costs were incurred as it has been developed in-house by staff in HMRC.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to protect the livelihoods of carers. [82987]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise and appreciate the important role of carers.

Financial support for carers is provided through the social security benefits system. The main benefit available to carers is carer's allowance, which provides a measure of support for people who are unable to undertake full-time paid employment because of their caring responsibilities. With the introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill, the Government announced that carer's allowance will continue to exist as a separate benefit providing an independent income for carers and recognition of the role they play. Carer's allowance is currently paid at £55.55 a week.

In addition to carer's allowance, carers on low incomes can claim income-related benefits, such as income support and pension credit. These benefits can be paid to carers at a higher rate through the carer premium or the equivalent additional amount for carers respectively, both currently worth up to £31.00 a week.

From 2013, we are introducing universal credit, an integrated benefit which will be payable whether or not people are in work. Above a disregard of earnings, the universal credit award will reduce gradually as earnings increase, due to the single earnings taper. The universal credit award will include a carer element which will continue for as long as the carer provides care for at least 35 hours per week for a severely disabled person. The carer element will continue to be included in the universal credit award when carer's allowance ceases because someone's earnings take them above the level for carer's allowance, which is currently £100.00 a week net of certain expenses.

Crisis Loans

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the April 2011 changes to crisis loans for general living expenses, excluding alignment payments, on annual expenditure on crisis loans for general living expenses, excluding alignment payments in 2011-12 and 2012-13; [82746]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the April 2011 changes to crisis loans for items on annualised expenditure on crisis loans for items in 2011-12 and 2012-13. [82748]

Steve Webb: The limit of three awards for general living expenses in a rolling 12 month period that was introduced in April 2011 will not have had full effect until after April 2012. Expenditure on general living expenses will therefore continue to reduce.

The forecast expenditure on awards for items or services following a disaster and general living expenses for the financial year 2011-12 is £60 million. At present we are not able to provide separate forecasts.

Detailed modelling for the next financial year has not been completed, but it is estimated that the total expenditure on general living expenses and items or services following a disaster will be under £36 million in 2012-13.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding arrangements are intended to replace crisis loans for *(a)* rent in advance and *(b)* items after localisation. [82747]

Steve Webb: Discretionary housing payments can already be used to help people on housing benefit or council tax benefit to pay for rent in advance. The funding for discretionary housing payments has been increased by £130 million over the current spending review period.

Since April this year a crisis loan for items can only be awarded following a disaster such as flooding. From April 2013 the current funding of £178.2 million per annum for the discretionary social fund will be apportioned nationally between England, Scotland and Wales. The funding for items following a disaster is included in this amount.

Budgeting loans and universal credit budgeting advances will also be available to eligible recipients. These can be used to purchase replacement white goods and household items or for rent in advance.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 719W, on crisis loans, in how many cases loans have been made to meet the interest payments on a loan which had been taken out by a person now on benefits when an endowment policy accompanying a mortgage matures but does not provide sufficient funds to pay off the balance of that mortgage in each of the last two years in each Jobcentre Plus budget area. [83830]

Steve Webb: A crisis loan cannot be awarded to pay the interest payments on another loan. As set out in my previous answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 719W, support may be available through support for mortgage interest payments to claimants of income-related benefits.

Crisis loans are only available to meet day to day living expenses for a short period, rent in advance, or, following a disaster such as flooding, the cost of essential household items. A crisis loan must be the only means of avoiding serious risk or damage to the health or safety of the applicant or their family.

Consultants

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland on (i) personnel costs and (ii) consultants in each year since 1997. [82042]

Chris Grayling: Spend is not recorded on a geographical basis. DWP does not record spend for Government Offices in Northern Ireland.

(i) DWP has spent the following amounts on total net staff costs in each year since 2003-04 as follows:

	Average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed	*£ million*
2003-04	134,318	2,943.85
2004-05	131,998	3,099.84
2005-06	122,215	3,214.57
2006-07	116,005	3,126.63
2007-08	109,462	3,140.62
2008-09	108,058	3,108.84
2009-10	118,465	3,504.12
2010-11	115,846	3,487.32

Source:
DWP published annual accounts

(ii) DWP has spent the following amounts on Management Consultancy Services and Contingent Labour in each year since 2003-04 when our records began:

£ million

	Consultancy Services	*Contingent Labour*[1]
2003-04	306.72	50.93
2004-05	168.37	33.65
2005-06	130.29	43.86
2006-07	162.62	66.68
2007-08	76.48	36.90
2008-09	95.18	60.79
2009-10	72.08	59.04
2010-11	18.24	27.61

[1] Contingent Labour includes Interim Managers and Specialist Contractors who fill professional or specialist roles where resource or expertise is not available in-house.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the definition of work under the Work programme will be changed after the change to the working hours limits for working tax credit in April 2012. [83676]

Chris Grayling: The change to the working hours limits for working tax credit in April 2012 does not affect the definition of work under the Work programme. In order to qualify for a job outcome payment and subsequent sustainment payments a Work programme participant must be in employment and off benefit for the length of time specified for their participant group. The Department has not specified the number of hours a participant must work each week for employment to count towards Work programme outcomes—the key criteria are simply that the participant is in employment and off benefit.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish data on referrals and job outcomes for *(a)* tier 1, *(b)* tier 2 and *(c)* voluntary and community sector providers (i) across the whole work programme and (ii) by individual contract package area in (A) April and (B) October 2012. [83742]

Chris Grayling: The exact details of what we will publish has still to be decided as it is dependent on the availability and quality of the data. However, we hope to be able to publish data by contract package area.

Employment Schemes: Apprentices

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Work programme job outcomes were the result of placement on an apprenticeship. [83675]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received from Work programme providers on the proportion of referrals to the programme of people in receipt of employment and support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [83674]

Chris Grayling: The Department is implementing some process changes to the Work programme in response to feedback received from organisations on the level of referrals from people in receipt of employment and support allowance (ESA). These changes aim to maximise the number of ESA claimants joining provision and are also in line with providers' requests to have more influence over their engagement with individuals.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of referrals to the Work programme have been of people in receipt of employment and support allowance in each month since June 2011. [83677]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

Social Exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect of his proposals for welfare reform on people experiencing multiple sources of deprivation. [81940]

Chris Grayling: Full impact assessments on the measures contained within the Welfare Reform Bill have been conducted and kept up to date. These are available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-bill-2011/impact-assessments-and-equality/

As set out in the relevant impact assessment, universal credit will reduce the number of individuals in poverty.

Greater simplicity will lead to a substantial increase in the take-up of currently unclaimed benefits, with most of the impact being at the lower end of the income distribution. The changes to entitlement are estimated to increase average weekly net income in the bottom two income deciles by £3 and £4 per week respectively. After accounting for imperfect take-up in the current system and improved take-up under universal credit, the gain for the bottom two deciles increases to £11 and £10 per week respectively. On reasonable assumptions, the combined impact of take-up and entitlements will lift around 900,000 individuals out of poverty, including more than 350,000 children and around 550,000 working-age adults. These poverty impacts exclude the positive impacts of more people moving into work.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* employment support allowance benefit claims there were subsequently proved to be unsubstantiated in the last year for which figures are available. [83820]

Chris Grayling: Please note that incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) for new claims from October 2008. The reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants for eligibility for employment and support allowance started in April 2011 and is expected to end in 2014.

Information on the number of incapacity benefits claimants being reassessed for ESA using the work capability assessment (WCA) is not available. Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the process including the final outcomes, subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed and appeals is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process but only once they have been quality assured and are considered robust.

The number of disability living allowance (DLA) new claim decisions made from April 2010 to March 2011 was 453,000 and 257,000 (57%) were rejected. The total rejected on medical grounds was 256,000 and 1,000 were rejected because the DLA eligibility criteria was not satisfied.

The Department regularly publishes information on employment support allowance and the work capability assessment. The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the departmental website here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Table 2 in the above publication shows that there were 447,500 new ESA claims that underwent an initial WCA between June 2010 and May 2011 (the latest data available), of these 265,000 (59%) were found fit for work.

Notes:

1. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest percentage point and numbers of cases have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

2. Disability living allowance data are sourced from Department for Work and Pensions, RDA60209 and RDA60205 reports—DLA Management Information Statistics.

3. Employment and support allowance data are sourced from Atos Healthcare and DWP departmental administrative data.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aerospace Industry: Research

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support research and development in the aerospace sector. [83497]

Mr Prisk: Technology is an important strand of work for the Aerospace Growth Partnership, which I co-chair with Marcus Bryson, CEO of GKN Aerospace. The focus of the Technology Working Group is on identifying the key technologies that will help position the UK aerospace industry to secure high value work on new aircraft programmes.

In July 2011, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) announced £10 million of research and development (R and D) grants for the Next Generation Vertical Lift programme, led by Agusta Westland, encompassing three projects focusing on main and tail rotor blades, transmission systems and flight trials. This is in addition to the £300 million invested by the TSB over the past four years on collaborative research and technology programmes such as 'Next Generation Composite Wing' led by Airbus, and 'SILOET (Strategic Investment in Low Carbon Engine Technology) led by Rolls-Royce.

We are also supporting the development of new aircraft programmes such as the Airbus A350 XWB and Bombardier CSeries aircraft with Repayable Launch Investment—with commitments for these programmes totalling around £514 million.

The aerospace sector will benefit from the creation of the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre (HVM TIC) network. Established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board, the HVM TIC will provide an integrated capability and embrace all forms of manufacture using metals and composites, in addition to process manufacturing technologies and bio-processing.

Apprentices

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what sanctions exist for companies that do not fulfil their obligations in respect of young people enrolled on recognised apprenticeship schemes; [80753]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that employers who enrol young people on a recognised apprenticeship scheme fulfil their obligations with regard to those young people; and what sanctions they are liable to if they fail to do so. [81564]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Following the Apprenticeships, Children, Schools and Learning Act (2009), all apprentices must be employed throughout their apprenticeship programme. Their employers have exactly the same obligations and sanctions as other employers, including responsibility for safeguarding young people.

Employers can include details about the apprenticeship and any entitlements, for example study time, within the contract of employment.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of subsidising wage costs from the public purse for apprentices aged 19 to 24 years. [82555]

Mr Hayes: The Government have announced that we will incentivise small employers who have not been previously engaged in the apprenticeships programme to take on their first young apprentices aged 16 to 24. Up to 40,000 places will be available.

Apprenticeships deliver strong value for money, with good progression in employment and continued learning. Small employers, who often do not have human resource departments, or dedicated training budgets, can find it more challenging to take on their first apprentice. Providing an incentive payment to support them in doing so will enable them to offer new opportunities to young people.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the barriers preventing small businesses from recruiting apprentices; and if he will make a statement. [82558]

Mr Hayes: Employers of small and medium-sized businesses and their representative bodies have told us that they face a number of barriers in recruiting apprentices including bureaucracy and framework rigidity that in some cases cost.

That is why we announced on 16 November that we will strip out all additional health and safety requirements imposed on employers, reduce the time it takes an employer to advertise a vacancy for an apprentice to one month and provide the small firms with a financial incentive of £1,500 to help them take on their first apprentice. We will ask a leading employer to undertake an independent review of apprenticeship standards which we expect will identify other areas where we can work to make the apprenticeship programme simpler for employers of all sizes.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many (1) new apprenticeships have been started in each year since 2008-09; [82696]

(2) apprenticeship schemes in Great Yarmouth received enrolments in each year since 2006. [82701]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the total number of apprenticeship programme starts in 2008/09 to 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data).

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts, 2008/09, 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data)

	All Apprenticeships
2008/09 (final)	239,900
2009/10 (final)	279,700
2010/11 (provisional)	442,700

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 can not be compared with final figures for earlier years.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts in Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency by Framework in 2005/06 to 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data).

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts by framework in Great Yarmouth, 2005/06 to 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data)

	2005/06 (final)	*2006/07 (final)*	*2007/08 (final)*	*2008/09 (final)*	*2009/10 (final)*	*2010/11 (provisional)*
Accountancy	10	10	[1]—	[1]—	10	10

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts by framework in Great Yarmouth, 2005/06 to 2009/10 (final data) and 2010/11 (provisional data)

	2005/06 (final)	2006/07 (final)	2007/08 (final)	2008/09 (final)	2009/10 (final)	2010/11 (provisional)
Active Leisure and Learning	20	20	10	10	10	20
Automotive Industry	[1]—	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Business Administration	30	20	30	30	50	90
Children's Care Learning and Development	10	10	30	20	20	20
Construction	30	30	40	20	20	20
Customer Service	10	20	40	40	40	80
Dental Nursing	[1]—	10	10	10	10	10
Electrotechnical	[1]—	[1]—	10	10	20	10
Engineering	30	30	30	40	30	40
Engineering Construction	[1]—	[1]—	10	[1]—	10	10
Equine Industry	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	10
Food Manufacture	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	20	10	20
Hairdressing	20	30	30	30	40	30
Health and Social Care	20	30	40	30	50	100
Hospitality and Catering	20	30	20	30	30	50
Management	[1]—	10	10	20	20	40
Meat and Poultry Processing	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
MES Plumbing	10	20	20	10	10	[1]—
Property Services	[1]—	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Retail	20	20	40	40	50	110
Sales and Telesales	[1]—	[1]—	10	10	[1]—	10
Sporting Excellence	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	10
Teaching Assistants	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	20
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	[1]—	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	10	20	30	20	20	10
Great Yarmouth Total	260	320	450	410	450	730

[1] Indicates a base value of less than five.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Provisional estimates for 2010/11 cannot be compared with final figures for earlier years.
3. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to reduce the barriers to taking on an apprentice for smaller businesses; and if he will make a statement. [83234]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* On 16 November I announced a number of measures that will be taken to simplify the process and support smaller businesses to take on an apprentice. These measures include a financial incentive of £1,500 to help small businesses employ their first apprentice, significantly reducing the time it takes to recruit an apprentice, and stripping out all the unnecessary, additional health and safety requirements placed on employers that take on apprentices.

Business

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and *(c)* the Science Innovation Network have spent on services and support provided to Oxitec Ltd, including (i) the market entry trip to Brazil in early 2010, (ii) the UKTI Trade Mission to Brazil in July 2010 and (iii) any further missions to Brazil or other countries. [82685]

Mr Prisk: Oxitec has received a £1,845.12 grant from the Science and Innovation Network towards travel costs in the market entry trip to Brazil from 21-27 February 2010, in the context of the International Innovation Programme.

As a participant in UKTI's Passport to Export Scheme in 2003, Oxitec received two separate payments for visits to international markets equalling £1,520.67. The company also received an Independent Market Visit Scheme grant from UKTI in 2008 totalling £750.

Business: EU Action

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department has made to EU negotiations on future deregulation for micro-businesses. [83300]

Mr Prisk: On 23 November, the Commission adopted a report on "Minimising regulatory burdens for SMEs: Adapting EU regulation to the needs of micro-enterprises". This includes a commitment to exclude micro-enterprises from the scope of proposed EU legislation from 1 January 2012, unless the proportionality of their being covered can be demonstrated. BIS worked with other EU member

states to encourage the Commission to include this proposal in its report, which delivers against one of the Prime Minister's initiatives to reduce EU regulatory costs on business.

The report also presents the first results of the Commission's screening of the existing stock of EU legislation for examples from which micro-businesses could be exempted or subject to a lighter regime. This draws heavily on proposals which BIS gathered from across Whitehall and UK business organisations and submitted to the Commission earlier in the autumn.

BIS will continue to work closely with the Commission to ensure it effectively delivers its new micro-businesses policy, and that results are felt by SMEs on the ground.

Business: Government Assistance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to provide targeted support for businesses in areas where *(a)* the rate of long-term unemployment increases and *(b)* the job density ratio falls below a specific threshold; and if he will make a statement. [83400]

Mr Prisk: The Government have a range of policies that each has their own targeting methodology in line with their objectives. For example, the Regional Growth Fund is targeted on, in particular, those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector to support them make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.

The Government have no plans to introduce a targeted support for business as proposed in the question.

Economic Growth: North-east England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his objectives are for business growth in the North East in the next five years. [83399]

Mr Prisk: The Government are committed to supporting sustainable growth and enterprise balanced across all regions and industries and promote green industries; there are no specific business growth objectives for the North East.

The North Eastern and Tees Valley local enterprise partnerships will set out their specific objectives for pursuing local growth in their areas.

Engineering: Prizes

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has provided for the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering. [82876]

Mr Prisk: The Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering is an independent award funded by industry. It will be administered by the Royal Academy for Engineering. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and other BIS Ministers and officials assisted the Royal Academy in establishing the prize through discussions with senior industry leaders.

Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology is used in impact assessments across Government to assign a value to environmental *(a)* policies and *(b)* legislation to represent their potential benefit to the low-carbon and environmental goods and services sector. [80006]

Mr Prisk: The development of business cases and impact assessments across HM Government follows the guidance set out in The Green Book—Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government (2011). This guidance is supported by a comprehensive set of more detailed supplementary guidance which covers a range of issues including methodologies for the calculation of environmental impacts. All guidance can be found on HM Treasury's web pages:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_index.htm

EU Structural and Cohesion funding

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the effect on UK exports of EU structural and cohesion funding expenditure in new member states since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [82385]

Mr Prisk: Between 2005 and 2009 UK exports of goods and services to new EU member states increased from £7.5 billion to £10 billion, an increase of 37%. Over the same period, exports of goods and services to the EU-15 increased 9%.

It would be extremely difficult to distinguish with any certainty the effect on exports of EU structural and cohesion funding expenditure from the effect of joining a free-trade area. This is because the full effect of market opening when these member states acceded to the EU would not be expected to take place immediately: when firms start to trade with a new business partner in overseas markets they tend to do so in small amounts at first, and gradually export more. Consequently there is no clear benchmark level of exports with which to estimate the effect of expenditure of structural and cohesion funding in 2005.

Higher Education: Community Relations

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with external organisations on the implementation of the Prevent strategy in universities. [78289]

Mr Willetts: Ministers and officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills meet regularly with external organisations such as Universities UK, the National Union of Students, the police, local authorities and individual student societies to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the Prevent strategy and extremism on campus. We are working closely with Universities UK and the National Union of Students to help us implement the proposals set out in the Prevent strategy published earlier this year.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Liverpool

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what response he plans to give to the offer from Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership that its Employment and Skills Board should be recognised as the single voice on employment and skills matters in the Liverpool City Region in return for a commitment to undertake activities in direct support of the Government's growth agenda. [82874]

Greg Clark: I welcome the proposals that the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has brought forward with regard to the role of its Employment and Skills Board. I am exploring these ideas further in the context of my wider discussions with Liverpool—and other cities—around developing bespoke deals between them and the Government to drive growth.

Manufacturing Industries: North-west England

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the proportion of the growth in manufacturing that took place between August 2010 and August 2011 that can be accounted for by manufacturers located in the North West. [83499]

Mr Prisk: The data are not available. Estimates of gross value added, the measure on which economic growth is based, cannot be calculated on a regional level for a considerable period of time after the event. This is because the complex process of allocating value to different regions with any accuracy relies on many detailed figures and parameters that only become available over time. Even when data become available they are only available for complete calendar years.

Mayors: Referendums

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Government's consultation on mayoral powers, entitled What can a mayor do for your city? A consultation, and the Open Public Services White Paper, what assessment he has made of powers of his Department which could be devolved to elected mayors. [82585]

Mr Prisk: As the consultation paper makes clear, the approach we are proposing is to look to the cities themselves to come forward with their own proposals for decentralising services and powers to a city mayor.

Medicine: Graduates

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students graduated with a *(a)* medical and *(b)* nursing degree in each of the last 10 years. [83163]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of postgraduate and undergraduate qualifiers in medicine and nursing at UK higher education institutions are shown in the following table for the academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10. Due to a change in the subject coding system used by the Higher Education Statistics Agency comparable figures for earlier years are not available. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Postgraduate and undergraduate qualifiers[1] in medicine and nursing UK higher education institutions[2]—Academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10

	Medicine (pre-clinical and clinical)		Nursing	
Academic year	Postgraduate	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Undergraduate
2002/03	3,080	5,500	1,375	39,520
2003/04	4,030	6,160	1,680	46,805
2004/05	4,040	6,640	1,865	52,350
2005/06	4,630	6,850	2,425	53,690
2006/07	4,990	7,470	2,740	50,490
2007/08	5,475	7,585	3,290	47,290
2008/09	5,360	8,200	3,865	42,465
2009/10	5,655	8,280	3,700	41,260

[1] Covers qualifiers of all ages and domiciles from full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to their incorrect coding of subject information across the time series.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.
2. Subject information is shown as full person equivalents (FPEs) in the table. FPEs are derived by splitting student instances between the different subjects that make up their course aim.
3. Pre-clinical and clinical medicine and nursing are classified as principal subjects on the HESA student record.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Metal Theft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many illegal scrap metal yards have been identified in each year from 1990 to 2011. [82364]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold such information. There is a statutory requirement for scrap metal dealers to register with their local authority under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 and the Civil Government (Scotland) Act 1982, but information on the total number of scrap metal dealers registered is not held centrally. Furthermore, operators of scrap metal yards require either an environmental permit or a registered exemption from the Environment Agency (or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency), under waste management legislation to be operating legally in the UK. Enforcement therefore currently rests with those relevant bodies.

New Businesses: Young People

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice and support his Department provides to young people who wish to set up in business. [82863]

Mr Prisk: We are transforming the way people receive the information, advice and guidance they need to start and grow their business. Our new approach, which provides access to everyone regardless of age, is based on: digital services which provide high quality information and advice, accessible when businesses need them; and face to face advice provided by business people for business people, not by the public sector. We are:

Revamping the Business Link website

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Introducing two new online services; a dedicated "My New Business" area developed by experts to provide training, tools and checklists for those looking to start a business; and the new Growth and Improvement Service which will provide new tools to help businesses understand the issues they face, plus a business support and an events finder tool so businesses can find out what is available to them locally. To ensure services are readily accessible and meet a variety of needs, our services include online tools, tutorials and case studies, and will be accessible using mobile technology.

Establishing a national helpline to help people find what they need on the web and for those who cannot access the web.

Encouraging businesses to seek a business mentor to help them develop their business and encouraging mentoring organisations to offer access to their mentors through a mentoring portal,

www.mentorsme.co.uk

Setting up a new Business Coaching for Growth (BCG) Programme to enable small businesses with high growth potential to realise their potential.

There are no age specific elements/adaptations, and all new materials have been reviewed and tested by a wide range of subject experts and real businesses including people starting up to ensure that they are accessible to all.

In addition to providing advice and support it is also important to provide young people with hands-on enterprise experience. Therefore, the Government are:

providing teachers with support to grow school businesses through an enhanced web resource

www.enterprisevillage.org.uk

providing schools with access to local enterprise champions to engage and inspire children

www.inspiringthefuture.org

supporting the creation of student enterprise societies so that every student in further education (FE) and higher education (HE) can access enterprise support;

improving access to information about what working for yourself entails, including through Global Entrepreneurship Week and My New Business.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the impact on the economy of central London of Westminster city council's proposal to extend parking charges during the evenings and weekends; [83579]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with Westminster city council on the impact of its proposals to extend parking charges during the evenings and weekends. [83580]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has not made an assessment of the impact on London's economy of Westminster city council's proposal for the extension of parking charges during the evenings and weekends. This is a primarily a matter for the council, taking account of the views of stakeholders including businesses in the area.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no discussions with Westminster city council on the impact of its proposals to extend parking charges during the evenings and weekends.

Post Offices

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the capability of sub-post offices and post office locals to offer Government services to the same level and quality as those provided by Crown post offices. [83746]

Mr Davey: The Department has made no such as assessment as decisions on the range of services to be offered at individual post offices are operational matters for Post Office Ltd within the terms of the contracts with their clients which will vary on a case by case basis. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Government's ambition is that all post offices should offer the services they are able to provide within the terms of the contracts between Post Office Ltd and their clients to the highest standards possible.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether due diligence tests are conducted before Regional Growth Fund grants are approved. [83397]

Mr Prisk: Due diligence tests are carried out on all bids that have been given conditional allocations of funding from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). Final approval of RGF awards is subject to that due diligence being satisfactorily completed.

Regional Growth Fund: EU Grants and Loans

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful bids received for the second round of the regional growth fund sought to use European regional development fund monies as match funding in each region. [82949]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Officials in the Department and in the European regional development fund (ERDF) teams worked closely together to align, where practical, the respective funds' bidding processes to ensure where possible bidders could access both sources of funding. In the second round of bidding to the regional growth fund 90 bids mentioned funding from ERDF sources.

Regional Growth Fund: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what approvals have been given to regional growth fund applications in respect of Liverpool. [78759]

Mr Prisk: In the second round of the Regional Growth Fund, 11 projects from the Liverpool city region have been conditionally allocated funds and will proceed to due diligence after terms and conditions of support are agreed.

The 11 projects are:

University of Liverpool

Crown Speciality Packaging UK Ltd

Redx Pharma Ltd

Eldonians Group Ltd

The Listen Media Company Ltd

Keepmoat Homes Ltd

Dairy Crest Ltd

Pilkington United Kingdom Limited

Getrag Ford Transmissions

Harpscree (GB) Ltd

Sefton council.

Retail Trade: West Midlands

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to support the retail sector in the West Midlands. [80870]

Mr Prisk: The Government are actively working to help all retailers including those in the West Midlands. Retail is vitally important to local and national economies. This was why it was chosen to be one of the first sectors to undergo the Growth Review process, and was the first sector to undergo the Red Tape Challenge. These initiatives identified a number of barriers to successful retail performance and growth, which the Government are working to address.

As part of the Retail Growth Review we extended the Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) holiday for one year, to 30 September 2012. Over half a million businesses are expected to benefit, with approximately 330,000 paying no rates. It is expected that enhanced SBRR will improve cash-flow for recipient businesses against the backdrop of challenging economic conditions.

The Government have helped all employers by increasing the employer national insurance contributions (NICs) threshold by £21 a week above indexation from April 2011. This reverses the previous Government's planned £3 billion tax on jobs and will increase the number of employees for whom employers pay no NICs by 650,000.

Through the Merlin agreement, the five major UK banks committed to make available £190 billion of new credit in 2011. £76 billion of this new lending capacity will be to SMEs, which represents a 15% increase on the £66 billion they lent in 2010. This has helped ensure that businesses in the West Midlands and across the economy are able to access the credit they need.

For businesses lacking track-record or collateral, the Government have committed to continuing the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 viable SMEs in 2011 and, subject to demand, over £2 billion in total over the next four years.

This Department and Department for Communities and Local Government are jointly responsible for the £20 million High Street Support Fund which was made available to support businesses affected by the public disturbances in August. Under this scheme SME businesses affected in the West Midlands have received grants and benefited from business rate relief and continue to benefit from wider business support activities to promote a return to normal trading activity. Final figures on spend under the scheme will not be available until after it closes in the new year.

Earlier this year my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister commissioned an Independent Review of the High Street. The review is being carried out by Mary Portas and will report back to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister later this year. The purpose of the review is to identify what Government, local authorities and businesses can do to promote the development of more prosperous and diverse high streets.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department uses to allocate further education science funding. [83171]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Department does not allocate further education funding at a sectoral level. Further education funding and core priorities for the Skills Funding Agency which reflect the Government's ambitions and investment plans for FE and skills are set out in the Grant Letter to the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency, published on 31 March 2011, available at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/VINCE_CABLE_TO_GEOFF_RUSSELL_(Skills_Funding_Agency)_31_MARCH_2011.pdf

The Skills Funding Agency allocates budgets to individual FE colleges and training organisations. From 2011/12 academic year, we have introduced a single adult skills budget. Each college and training organisation is expected to use its single adult skills budget to support the delivery of apprenticeships, classroom-based learning and work-based learning to meet the needs of the learners and employers. This will provide FE colleges and training organisations with the flexibility to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher-level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities (classroom, workshop, online and in the workplace). As funding is not allocated at the learning aim level, the amount of money spent on qualifications in specific sectors is not reported centrally by the Skills Funding Agency.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the funding was for the Learning and Skills Improvement Service STEM Programme in each of the last three years for which data are available; and how he plans that it will be funded in the future. [83173]

Mr Willetts: *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* For 2009/10 and 2010/11, the Department did not specify an amount of funding for the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) STEM Programme. Funding was incorporated in the total 'sector directed' element of the Grant funding letter.

From April 2011, LSIS is funded through the Skills Funding Agency Adult Participation Budget. The sector, in the form of the LSIS Council, determines the level of funding and LSIS deploys this to meet the needs identified by the sector and its key stakeholders.

The Department and LSIS remain committed to improving teaching and learning in STEM subjects, and to supporting the wider STEM agenda.

Students: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what modelling his Department has undertaken on the cost of access to higher education loans; and if he will publish any such modelling. [79759]

Mr Hayes: The Government will make available £129 million in the 2013-14 financial year and £398 million in the 2014-15 financial year to support a system of further education (FE) loans for adults aged 24 or over studying at level 3 or higher. This includes those FE learners who are studying Access to HE qualifications, who will be able to access loans alongside other learners.

The costs and benefits of FE loans as a whole has been modelled in an impact assessment published alongside the New Challenges, New Chances consultation on FE loans. The impact assessment can be found on the BIS website on the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/f/11-1218-further-education-loans-impact-assessment

Students: Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of further education student loans for access to education he expects to be repaid in full after 2013-14. [81142]

Mr Hayes: The Impact Assessment published alongside the New Challenges, New Chances consultation on further education loans included an assumption that 40% of the value of loans taken out will be repaid. This applies to all loans taken out from the academic year 2013/14 onwards, for all types of course. There is however no information available specifically for the subset of further education (FE) learners who are taking Access to Higher Education (HE) qualifications. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is carrying out further research and analysis to improve the accuracy of the simulation model used to calculate the figure above.

The Impact Assessment can be found on the BIS website on the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/f/11-1218-further-education-loans-impact-assessment

Trade Promotion: Olympic Games 2012

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants are working on the British Business Embassy project for the London 2012 Olympic Games; and from which Departments. [82476]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* A small core group (less than 10 civil servants) from UKTI and FCO are working to deliver the British Business Embassy at present. We expect the core team to increase as we approach delivery date for the project.

Vocational Education

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total funding is for adult skills *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in (i) Birmingham, (ii) Newcastle, (iii) Wakefield, (iv) Manchester, (v) Leeds, (vi) Liverpool, (vii) Coventry, (viii) Bristol, (ix) Sheffield, (x) Bradford, (xi) Leicester and (xii) Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82768]

Mr Hayes: As set out in the grant letter to the chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), which was published on 31 March 2011:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/VINCE_CABLE_TO_GEOFF_RUSSELL_(Skills_Funding_Agency)_31_MARCH_2011.pdf

total funding for the agency for 2011-12 financial year (FY) is £3,923 million. This letter states that the indicative budget for 2012-13 FY is £3,759 million. In 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 16 November 2010, we stated the direction of travel through to 2014-15 FY. We will publish the Adult Skills Investment Statement for the 2012-13 FY later in the autumn.

The SFA allocates budgets to individual further education (FE) colleges and training organisations. Each college and training organisation is expected to use its single Adult Skills budget to support the delivery of apprenticeships, classroom-based learning and work-based learning to meet the needs of the learners and employers, who may be drawn from a wide geographic area. We are unable to state how much funding will be invested to support adult FE and skills provision in each city or local authority area nor can we state the per capita level of investment.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding bodies provide support for skills for post-16-year-olds in Birmingham; what funding such organisations have received for work in Birmingham and the west midlands in each of the next five years; and what the national budget is for each such organisation in each such year. [82774]

Mr Hayes: As the question is directed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), my reply refers to funding for further education (FE) and skills for learners aged 19 and over. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) operates across England and allocates funding directly to individual FE colleges and training organisations to support FE and skills provision for adult learners. Each college and training organisation is expected to use its single Adult Skills budget to support the delivery of apprenticeships, classroom-based learning and work-based learning to meet the needs of the learners, and employers they serve, who may be drawn from a wide geographic area.

As set out in the grant letter to the chief executive of the SFA, which was published on 31 March 2011:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/SFA/VINCE_CABLE_TO_GEOFF_RUSSELL_(Skills_Funding_Agency)_31_MARCH_2011.pdf

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Young People: Unemployment

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people under the age of 25 years were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England in the last year which figures are available. [83035]

Mr Hayes: The following provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Bolton local authority and England in 2010. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey.

People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2010

	NEET		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence Interval*
England	994,000	16.6	+/- 0.5pp
Bolton	6,000	17.4	+/-5.8pp

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-5.8 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 5.8pp above the estimate and 5.8pp below the estimate.

[1] Age used is academic age, which is defined as the respondents age as at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95% confidence intervals.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Egypt

15. **Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent political developments in Egypt. [83297]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has previously expressed our deep concern about the violent events in Cairo and elsewhere in Egypt last week, and the loss of life and injuries. We have repeatedly urged the Egyptian authorities to establish a clear timetable for a rapid transition to civilian-led democratic rule. It is critical that the parliamentary elections proceed freely, fairly and safely, allowing the Egyptian people to express their will.

China

16. **Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage investment in China by the UK service sector. [83298]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), places a high priority on supporting British companies in a range of service sectors to invest in China, including financial and professional services, creative industries, low carbon services and sustainable urban development.

In June my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on trade in services with China.

Syria

17. **Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [83299]

Alistair Burt: We condemn the violence of the Syrian regime. President Assad has lost legitimacy and should step aside to allow a transition to an open political system. We support the Arab League's efforts to bring an end to the repression in Syria and are working with international partners to increase pressure on the regime.

Kosovo and Serbia

18. **Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the EU technical dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia; and if he will make a statement. [83301]

Mr Lidington: The Government are committed to an EU perspective for both Serbia and Kosovo.

It is important they move to normalising relations between them, including for the stability of the region.

The Government therefore strongly support the EU facilitated Dialogue to that end.

To date the Dialogue has secured agreements on freedom of movement, customs stamps, mutual recognition of university diplomas and the sharing of cadastral and civil registries.

Iran

19. **Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Iran. [83302]

Alistair Burt: Recently we have been in close touch with our EU partners about the EU response to the International Atomic Energy Agency report about the Iranian nuclear programme. The EU is considering a range of additional measures against the Iranian nuclear programme, which it will announce in the coming days.

Council of Europe Presidency

20. **Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his objectives are for the UK's presidency of the Council of Europe. [83303]

Mr Lidington: Our priorities for the UK chairmanship of the Council of Europe are:

reform of the European Court of Human Rights;

reform of the Council of Europe as an organisation;

promoting freedom of expression on the internet;

combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity;

working towards a more effective and efficient role for the Council of Europe in supporting local and regional democracy;

supporting strengthening of the rule of law in member states.

Further details are set out in my written statement of 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 8-10WS.

Latin America

21. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress his Department has made on engagement with Latin America. [83304]

Mr Hague: Our re-engagement with Latin America is crucial for our security and prosperity. Yesterday, the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), opened a new Consulate-General in Recife and we will open a new embassy in El Salvador in 2012. We are broadening our relations across Latin America in areas such as higher education, science and innovation and green growth.

Iran: Nuclear Programme

22. **Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [83305]

Alistair Burt: We, along with the rest of the international community, are gravely concerned about the Iranian nuclear programme. The most recent report from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency is clear: Iran continues to flout six UN Security Council resolutions requiring it to suspend uranium enrichment, and has conducted significant military-related nuclear activities.

Afghanistan: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he plans to make on women's rights in Afghanistan at the Bonn Conference. [83633]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 674-75W.

Bahrain: Arms Trade

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on sales of military equipment to Bahrain. [83630]

Alistair Burt: We regularly discuss arms export controls with EU colleagues in the EU Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports to ensure the consistent application by EU member states of the EU common position on the export of military technology and equipment.

Bahrain: EU External Trade

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the sale of surveillance technologies to the government of Bahrain by European companies. [83629]

Alistair Burt: We have not discussed the sale of military or surveillance technologies to Bahrain with our EU counterparts.

Bahrain: Human Rights

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the reports of *(a)* the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and *(b)* Bahraini human rights groups on human rights violations in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [83628]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is studying the detail of both the Independent Commission's report and reports by human rights groups on the situation in Bahrain. I welcome the findings of the Commission, whose report seems credible and thorough and urge the Government of Bahrain to quickly implement its recommendations.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Bahrain on censorship of online content and services in Bahrain. [83631]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office regularly raises all human rights issues, including freedom of expression, with the Bahraini authorities both in London and Bahrain. The UK Government promotes freedom of expression as an essential element of our work on the promotion of human rights and democracy.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Bahrain on deaths of protesters since September 2011. [83632]

Alistair Burt: We have regular discussions with the Bahraini authorities about all human rights issues. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spoke to the Bahraini Foreign Minister on 24 November. I have met with the Bahraini ambassador twice since September and our ambassador has seen all the senior leadership in Bahrain several times to discuss the situation in Bahrain.

Central African Republic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he plans to visit the Central African Republic; [83156]

(2) what assessment he has made of the UK's relationship with the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement; [83157]

(3) how many officials in his Department are stationed in the Central African Republic. [83159]

Mr Bellingham: Britain has a limited bilateral relationship with the Central African Republic. We have no embassy in the Central African Republic, though we do have a British honorary consul in Bangui. Our bilateral relationship is handled by the British high commission in Yaoundé. We work with international partners including the EU and UN on security and stability issues affecting the region. There are no plans at present for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers to visit the Central African Republic. FCO officials most recently travelled to Bangui in October 2011. They participated in the ongoing EU/Government of Central African Republic Cotonou article 8 political dialogue which focused on security sector reform. They also discussed broader security issues, including the Lord's Resistance Army, with international partners.

Departmental Air Travel

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on business class airline tickets in the last year. [83743]

Mr Bellingham: From 1 January 2011 to 20 November 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent a total of £8,193,996 on business class air travel for Queen's messengers, Ministers and staff. This covered 3,903 journeys.

These figures are a 9.8% reduction in costs and a 15% reduction in journeys compared to the same period in 2010.

All travel by Ministers and staff is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies; [80190]

(2) how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80197]

Mr Lidington: Finances within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are devolved to individual Directorates in the UK and to our network of posts overseas. Although we have no central records of design costs, we hold the following information:

(a), *(c)* and *(d)* Within the UK, any FCO design work for these purposes would normally be done using in-house resources at no additional cost. We have no central record of any design work on logos in the last financial year.

(b) External consultants, including architects, structural, mechanical and/or electrical engineers and surveyors, are used to maximise value for money when we undertake building projects. These contracts do not separate the design element from the rest of the contract.

(e) There is a design element to the FCO Consular "Know Before You Go" campaign which is not always billed separately. The design costs that were billed separately came to a total of £4,470 between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.

Press Releases

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the embargo date was on press copies of his 16 November 2011 speech on intelligence matters; what his policy is on allowing the contents of his speeches to be reported in detail by the media prior to being delivered; and if he will make a statement. [82661]

Mr Lidington: The full text of the speech was issued to the media on 16 November, embargoed until the time of delivery. Public statements are handled in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Ethiopia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Ethiopia. [83195]

Mr Bellingham: For security and operational reasons, we do not comment on or announce visits significantly in advance. Information about visits is provided through press releases and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes a retrospective quarterly list of ministerial visits on its website. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I visited Ethiopia in July this year.

Europe: Politics and Government

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the value of a system of *(a)* elected, *(b)* representative and *(c)* democratic governments in preserving peace in continental Europe since 1945; and if he will make a statement. [82662]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has conducted no single assessment of this broad topic, but continues to support the principles and importance of democracy in Europe and throughout the world.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has awarded to G4S since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each such contract. [83050]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not awarded any centrally managed contracts to G4S since May 2010.

Gibraltar: Sovereignty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Spain on the sharing of sovereignty over Gibraltar. [83202]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has had no discussions with Spain on the sharing of sovereignty of Gibraltar. Any communication that we have with the Spanish Government about Gibraltar reflects our clear position on sovereignty, which is that the UK will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their wishes and, furthermore, the UK will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

IRG

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 663, on IRG, what the date was of the discussion between Stephen Crouch and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham). [83745]

Mr Lidington: The conversation took place on 27 July 2010.

Italy: Foreign Relations

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's relations with Italy of the change of Government in that country; and if he will make a statement. [82402]

Mr Lidington: I welcome the formation of a new Government in Italy. The Prime Minister has already spoken to Prime Minister Monti, and I know my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has done so likewise and has expressed his support in light of the difficult and tough decisions that Italy will have to make in the coming months. The UK enjoys a strong and healthy relationship with Italy, and I look forward to that continuing through the range of security, economic and European issues.

Kashmir

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indian Government on the appointment of interlocutors for the engagement of stakeholders in Indian-administered Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [83216]

Alistair Burt: We are closely following the work of the three interlocutors appointed by Prime Minister Singh to help resolve the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not had discussions with the Government of India on their appointment. We are aware from the media that the interlocutors submitted their final report to the Indian Home Minister on 12 October but their recommendations have not yet been made public. It is for the Government of India to decide how to respond to the interlocutors' findings.

Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss the situation in Kashmir with their counterparts in India and Pakistan and with contacts in Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The long-standing position of the UK is well known—that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposals in the Ahtisaari Plan for the promotion of local self-government and protection of the Serb community in Kosovo. [82873]

Mr Lidington: The UK has always supported the Ahtisaari Plan proposals. These provide for an enhanced and sustainable system of local self-government and specific rights for the Serbian and other minority communities in Kosovo. Some examples of the provisions include proportional representation for minorities in the national government as well as the establishment of Kosovo-Serb majority municipalities with transparent links, including funding, with Belgrade. Other elements of the Ahtisaari Plan ensure education for minorities in their own language, the right to use their own community symbols and the ability to register their names in the original form and script.

The Plan's provisions, when fully implemented, will ensure a multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo with wide rights at municipal level, progressing towards eventual EU membership and contributing to regional stability. The UK is a strong supporter of the International Civilian Office (ICO), which was established to supervise the implementation of the plan, and works closely with it and the Government of Kosovo to help deliver full implementation of the plan.

Libya: Chemical Weapons

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the discovery of chemical weapons stocks in Libya after the fall of Gaddafi; whether these weapons were *(a)* secret or *(b)* known to the organisations overseeing the chemical weapons disarmament process; whether their existence means that the Gaddafi regime was cheating on its promise to disarm; and if he will make a statement. [82663]

Alistair Burt: On 4 November 2011, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced that, following an on-site inspection, inspectors had confirmed that the remains of the chemical weapons stocks declared by the Gaddafi regime were intact and secure, pending completion of destruction.

The OPCW also announced that the Libyan authorities had advised them orally on 1 November 2011 that further stocks of what were believed to be chemical weapons had been found. We welcome the willingness of the new Libyan Government to provide full disclosure and transparency. The OPCW is working with the Libyan

authorities to confirm the nature of the newly discovered items and to verify their destruction should they turn out to be chemical weapons.

We continue to monitor the situation closely with international partners and expect the Libyan Government to ensure the safety and security of all stocks.

If these items are confirmed to be chemical weapons, then the Gaddafi regime held back important information about parts of its chemical weapons programme, and failed to declare and destroy it completely in accordance with the promises that it made and the international commitments which it accepted under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The UK Government's engagement with Libya on weapon of mass destruction issues made real progress in diminishing the threat Gaddafi posed. Libya gave up its nuclear capabilities. Bringing Libya into the Chemical Weapons Convention led to the destruction, by February 2011, of all its declared unfilled aerial bombs, 55% of the mustard agent, and 40% of the chemical precursor stocks. This provides the basis for the new Government to take the necessary steps to declare and destroy all the weapons that it has inherited.

Malawi: Foreign Relations

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between the UK and the Government of Malawi. [83496]

Mr Bellingham: Britain and the Government of Malawi maintain formal diplomatic relations. But the relationship remains strained, following the Government of Malawi's unwarranted and unjustified decision to expel the British high commissioner, Mr Fergus Cochrane-Dyet, in April. In response to this action, the British Government expelled Malawi's acting high commissioner. Officials also carried out a review of the full range of the Britain's relations with Malawi, the results of which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs announced to the House in a written statement on 14 July, *Official Report*, column 46WS. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has also suspended General Budget Support to the Government of Malawi, due to our serious concerns about the Government of Malawi's record on economic and political governance, public financial management, and human rights.

Despite the strain in our relationship with the Government of Malawi, Britain's commitment to the people of Malawi remains undiminished. We are seeking to maintain planned levels of assistance from Britain to Malawi this year, and officials at the Department for International Development are reallocating the full amount originally set aside for General Budget Support to programmes that directly assist the poor. As evidence of this commitment, we have recently announced increased support for fertiliser and seeds, together with Norway and Ireland, to ensure food security for the poor people of Malawi.

A delegation from the Government of Malawi, led by Foreign Minister Professor Peter Mutharika, visited London on 12 October for talks with the Foreign Secretary, the Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development and me. We discussed the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Britain and Malawi, and the deteriorating political and economic situation in Malawi. We emphasised to the Malawian delegation that we would appoint a new high commissioner to Malawi only when we could be confident that he or she would have full and unfettered freedom to engage not only with the Government of Malawi but with all political voices, whether or not they are sympathetic to the Government of Malawi, including the press and civil society. The appointment of a high commissioner remains under review. Similarly, the Under-Secretary insisted that General Budget Support would remain suspended until we saw concrete progress from the Government of Malawi in addressing our concerns over economic management, governance and human rights. We will continue to monitor the situation in Malawi closely.

Spain: Detainees

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the finalisation of a court date in Spain in respect of the case of Kyle Thain and James Harris. [83706]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided consular assistance to Mr Kyle Thain and Mr James Harris and their families. Consular officials in Alicante have visited Mr Thain and Mr Harris on several occasions and have assisted their families with arranging prison visits. We have raised their concerns with the Spanish authorities and will continue to provide appropriate consular assistance to them.

Court proceedings in Spain are a matter for the Spanish authorities. The FCO cannot interfere in the judicial processes of another country in the same way other countries cannot interfere in such processes in the United Kingdom.

The Spanish authorities have informed us that both Mr Thain and Mr Harris were released on conditional bail on 24 November 2011.

Tristan da Cunha: Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to Tristan da Cunha as a result of the MV Oliva oil incident. [83206]

Mr Bellingham: The responsibility to make good any damage caused to the environment of the Tristan da Cunha islands, and to compensate the Tristan community for any losses, lies with the ship's owners and insurers. We are committed to ensuring that they meet this responsibility in full. We remain in close touch with the Tristan da Cunha authorities to ensure that they have all the advice and support they need from across Government and elsewhere in the ongoing negotiations.

While the Government are quite clear that all costs resulting from this incident must be borne by the owners and insurers of the vessel, the FCO made a top-up to Tristan da Cunha's financial reserves of £500,000 in March to protect the community against immediate and short-term costs.

Tristan da Cunha: South Africa

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in South Africa on travel routes between South Africa and Tristan da Cunha. [83203]

Mr Bellingham: There have been no such recent discussions.

Tullow Oil

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the hon. Member for North West Norfolk met Tullow Oil in July 2010. [83721]

Mr Bellingham: I met representatives of Tullow Oil on 15 July 2010 in London and on 22 July 2010 in Kampala.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who was present at the meeting between the hon. Member for North West Norfolk and Tullow Oil in July 2010. [83738]

Mr Bellingham: I was accompanied by Mr Andrew Pocock, then Africa director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We met Mr Tim O'Hanlon, vice-president, Africa Business and Ms Rosalind Kainyah, vice-president, external affairs and CSR.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was discussed at the meeting between the hon. Member for North West Norfolk and Tullow Oil in July 2010. [83739]

Mr Bellingham: I discussed Tullow's exploration and production activities throughout Africa.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries in Africa were discussed at the meeting between the hon. Member for North West Norfolk and Tullow Oil in July 2010. [83740]

Mr Bellingham: I discussed Uganda, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether minutes were taken at the meeting between the hon. Member for North West Norfolk and Tullow Oil in July 2010. [83741]

Mr Bellingham: Minutes were not taken.

UNESCO: Human Rights

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether, as a member of UNESCO's Executive Board, the Government voted for or approved the election of Syria to UNESCO's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations examining human rights communications. [83634]

Mr Bellingham: Membership of the UNESCO Committee on Conventions and Recommendations is chosen on a regional basis from within members of the regional groups. As Britain is not a member of the group which elected Syria we did not have a vote in this election nor could we have intervened under UNESCO's rules. The group was uncontested and the Syrian candidate was elected by acclamation.

We remain committed to ensuring the UN human rights system continues to promote and protect human rights and will continue to cast our vote in open UN elections relating to human rights bodies based on merit, whether that be an individual standing for a treaty monitoring body or a UN member state standing for an inter-governmental body like the Human Rights Council.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Attendances: Alcoholic Drinks

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related attendances were recorded at accident and emergency centres on *(a)* 25 December, *(b)* 26 December, *(c)* 31 December and *(d)* 1 January in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [83856]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on banning the sale of alcohol below cost. [83503]

Anne Milton: Department of Health Ministers regularly discuss all aspects of alcohol policy with Home Office counterparts. Home Office Ministers have lead responsibility for alcohol pricing policy.

Ambulance Services: Expenditure

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely level of *(a)* over-spending and *(b)* under-spending for each ambulance service trust in England in 2011-12. [82929]

Mr Simon Burns: At quarter 1 of 2011-12, all ambulance service national health service trusts were forecasting a surplus.

The aggregate forecast surplus for all ambulance service NHS trusts, at quarter 1 of 2011-12, was £16 million.

The breakdown of the forecast surplus for all the ambulance service NHS trusts is shown in the following table.

Ambulance service NHS trust	*2011-12 Quarter 1 forecast surplus/ (operating deficit) (£000)*
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,587
East Of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,398

Ambulance service NHS trust	*2011-12 Quarter 1 forecast surplus/ (operating deficit) (£000)*
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,406
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,412
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,025
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,500
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,050
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	925
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	415
Total	15,718

Antibiotics

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on encouraging awareness of appropriate antibiotic use. [83127]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made available on its website a range of resources to encourage prudent use of antibiotics, and promoted the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) on 18 November 2011 to remind both the public and professionals of the need to use antibiotics appropriately. This included making clear that antibiotics are important medicines and should only be taken when prescribed by a health professional, and that it is important that patients complete the prescribed course so that the treatment is effective and the risk of resistance is reduced.

In August this year, the chief medical officer took part in a BBC Radio 4 discussion about people's resistance to antibiotics and what the future holds. In addition, in support of the Department's new guidance on the use of antibiotics in hospitals, published ahead of the EAAD, the chief medical officer said:

"Many antibiotics are currently prescribed and used when they don't need to be—meaning antibiotics lose their effectiveness at a rapidly increasing rate."

"This guidance will help ensure better use of antibiotics in hospitals and treatment tailored for individual patient needs."

"It is important we use antibiotics in the right way if we are to get the best outcome for the patient, slow down resistance and make sure these important medicines continue to stay effective for ourselves and for future generations."

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being taken to inform people about potential dangers associated with self-medicating with antibiotics. [83128]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and the chief medical officer promoted messages to the public relating to appropriate antibiotic use as part of its activities to support European Antibiotics Awareness day on 18 November 2011. This included making clear that antibiotics are important medicines and should only be taken when prescribed by a health professional, and that when prescribed it is important that patients complete the prescribed course so that the treatment is effective and the risk of resistance is reduced.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being taken to prevent the increase of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. [83129]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are continuing to focus their efforts at a national level on monitoring infections, promoting responsible prescribing and use of antibiotics as well as good general hygiene and infection control measures. We are also pushing for concerted action and collaboration at a European Union and international level to address this global issue.

Care Quality Commission: Manpower

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of staffing levels at the Care Quality Commission. [82932]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and has a key responsibility in the overall assurance of essential levels of safety and quality of health and adult social care services.

It is for the CQC to determine the appropriate staffing complement for its organisation in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in areas of high occurrence. [82923]

Mr Simon Burns: In July 2011, we published "An Outcomes Strategy for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma", which set out six high-level objectives for public health, the national health service and social care to tackle COPD and asthma in England. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

The Department is working with clinical leads for respiratory disease in each of the strategic health authority areas in England to drive up the quality of preventative, detection, diagnostic, treatment and care services for COPD. The leads are using data to help drive improvements in their areas, including those with a high occurrence of COPD.

Clostridium Difficile

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to protect public health from methicillin-resistant *clostridium difficile*. [83125]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have made clear it is a key priority that the national health service operates a zero tolerance approach to all avoidable *clostridium difficile* infections.

The NHS Operating Framework 2012-13 (published 24 November 2011) again prioritises the achievement of the *c. difficile* objective. Those organisations who have the highest rates of *c. difficile* infections will be required to make the largest reductions.

This objective, through its successful implementation, will continue to build on the significant progress already made by moving the performance of all organisations towards the level of the best, and consequently will reduce numbers at a national level.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83000]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has published 219 leaflets, 19 posters, 138 reports and 50 other publications since May 2010. The cost of each is shown in a table, which has been placed in the Library. All publishing and design work was commissioned through the Central Office of Information, either through its in-house resource or from its design frameworks.

Diabetes

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients with Type 2 diabetes were admitted to *(a)* accident and emergency centres and *(b)* hospitals in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [83710]

Paul Burstow: Data for admissions to accident and emergency centres are not collected centrally. The number of finished admission episodes with primary diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes (Diabetes mellitus), by all and emergency admissions for 2008-09 to 2010-11, is in the following table:

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
All admissions	27,395	29,525	32,946
Of which:			
Emergency admissions	15,392	16,569	17,335

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital; ICD-10 codes used: E11 Non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.
3. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 400 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
5. Activity included: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Euthanasia

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 238W, on euthanasia, what representations he has received on the professional guidance issued by the Royal College of Nursing and the British Medical Association. [83016]

Anne Milton: The Royal College of Nursing has written to me about its guidance "When someone asks for your assistance to die". There have been no other representations on this or the guidance from the British Medical Association.

Hepatitis: Health Services

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to investigate the reasons for low levels of pharmacological treatment for hepatitis C following the publication of Professor Sir Mike Richards CBE report on the extent and causes of international variations in drug usage; and if he will make a statement. [83365]

Anne Milton: The Department is currently considering appropriate next steps following the report from Professor Sir Mike Richards.

Professor Martin Lombard, the national clinical director for liver disease, is leading the development of work to curb the rising trends in liver disease. Part of this work is intended to ensure that the prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C are improved.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the current levels of integration between health and social care services in delivering hepatitis C services; and if he will make a statement. [83366]

Anne Milton: Integrated health and social care services are organised locally to meet local needs, and we do not hold this information centrally. Professor Martin Lombard, the national clinical director for liver disease, and his team have been working closely with representatives of the national health service, public health and patient groups for the past year to understand what needs to change to enable better outcomes to be achieved on liver disease, of which hepatitis C is a major contributing factor.

The vision for the national liver strategy is to improve the patient pathway for people with liver disease so as to minimise unnecessary effort and expense, improve prevention and identification activity and improve treatment, care and support services from diagnosis to end-of-life care. It will underline the need for planned and integrated services across health and social care to deliver services based on the needs of individuals, and to support people living independently in the community with a good quality of life.

Home Care Services: Finance

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much extra funding has been allocated for re-ablement to support hospital discharge since May 2010; and how this funding was allocated and to whom; [83214]

(2) how much of the extra £70 million funding announced for re-ablement has been *(a)* spent by and *(b)* allocated to each primary care trust and on what services this money has been spent. [83215]

Paul Burstow: The Department announced on 5 October 2010 that £70 million of extra funding would be allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) to be spent across the health and social care system to enable the national health service to support people back into their homes after a spell in hospital through re-ablement. Allocations to PCTs were made on 4 November 2010, and details on this are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_121017.pdf

Following the extra £70 million re-ablement monies we allocated to PCTs in 2010-11, on 4 January 2011 the Department announced a further allocation of £162 million to PCTs for winter pressures funding on social care services that also, benefit the NHS.

Examples of the kinds of services PCTs could invest in included further investment in re-ablement services, to help people regain their independence and reduce the need for ongoing care. Details on this are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_123223

The spending review and 2011-12 NHS operating framework announced further funding to PCTs in financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 to develop local re-ablement services in the context of the post-discharge support plans submitted to strategic health authorities last December. This funding totals £150 million in 2011-12 and £300 million in 2012-13, and is contained within recurrent PCT baseline allocations. Details on this are also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_123460

and

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123463.pdf

It is for PCTs in partnership with local agencies to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

Copies of the documents have been placed in the Library.

Hospital Beds

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed hospital discharges there have been of *(a)* under and *(b)* over 75 years old in each region since May 2010. [83211]

Paul Burstow: The Department collects data only on people over 75 years for acute delayed transfer of care and data on these are shown in the following tables.

Delayed transfers of care of acute patients, national health service organisations, England

Delayed transfers of care of acute patients—adults (75+)

		2010-11				2011-12	
Code	*Name*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*
—	England	1,790	1,610	1,769	1,806	—	—
Q30	North East	67	45	50	49	—	—
Q31	North West	160	138	149	165	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	140	107	161	213	—	—
Q33	East Midlands	169	124	149	116	—	—
Q34	West Midlands	298	289	316	273	—	—
Q35	East of England	244	231	178	206	—	—
Q36	London	142	132	139	180	—	—
Q37	South East Coast	165	184	150	148	—	—
Q38	South Central	178	180	254	232	—	—
Q39	South West	228	180	222	225	—	—

Delayed transfers of care of acute patients—adults (18+)

		2010-11				2011-12	
Code	*Name*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*
—	England	2,356	2,195	2,347	2,392	2,241	2,352
Q30	North East	88	57	59	77	71	89
Q31	North West	220	195	227	248	236	293
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	183	169	194	281	254	230
Q33	East Midlands	206	171	187	162	178	218
Q34	West Midlands	415	436	417	395	344	342
Q35	East of England	287	281	212	247	239	236
Q36	London	216	191	209	229	236	250
Q37	South East Coast	206	227	205	176	205	210
Q38	South Central	249	244	323	295	182	215
Q39	South West	286	223	314	281	297	270

Notes:
1. Summary: An estimate of the average number of delayed transfers of care per day in the quarter by region.
2. Period: April 2010 to September 2011.

Source:
Department of Health: Unify2 data collection—VSMR and IPMR

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the costs to the NHS of delayed hospital discharge. [83213]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect data on the cost of delayed transfers of care. Data on the number of delays are published each month by the Department.

We have made significant sums of money available in this spending review period to reduce the level of delayed discharges to a minimum. In the last financial year, an extra £162 million was made available to local health and care services to spend on front-line services, and an additional £70 million of funding was available for spend on helping people to return to their homes after a spell in hospital. This money was aimed at helping people to leave hospital more quickly, get settled back at home with the support they need, and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital. This year, there is £150 million available for re-ablement and £648 million for social care spend that also benefits the national health service.

Hospital Beds: Hampshire

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to obtain data from the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust showing the numbers out of its total of acute in-patient beds which have been occupied by *(a)* detained and *(b)* voluntary in-patients on each day in (i) September and (ii) October 2011; if he will place a copy of such data in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [83751]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally. I understand my hon. Friend has requested these data from the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust directly and I am informed by the Trust that it has made arrangements to share this information with my hon. Friend.

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who have been given the human papillomavirus vaccine had serious side effects as a result. [83123]

Anne Milton: Since the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine immunisation programme began in September 2008 up to 22 November 2011, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has received 6,066 reports of 'suspected' side effects (this includes reports in which the brand of HPV vaccine was not specified). Of these 6,066 reports, 1,046 reports are considered to be serious. This follows administration of more than 5 million doses of Cervarix across the United Kingdom to date.

The MHRA collects information on suspected side effects to vaccines and medicines via the Yellow Card Scheme. Two HPV vaccines, Cervarix and Gardasil, are licensed for use in the UK, with Cervarix routinely used within the HPV vaccine immunisation programme.

It is important to note that Yellow Card reports relate to 'suspicions' that a side effect may have occurred. They may relate to true side effects, or they may be due to coincidental illness. As reports are not necessarily proof that a vaccine or medicine was a cause of the reported illness, the data cannot be used to estimate the true frequency of side effects to the vaccine. The known frequency of established side effects is listed in the available product information.

As with all vaccines and medicines, the MHRA keeps the safety of HPV vaccines under continual review. The MHRA's detailed safety assessment of Cervarix after 4.5 million doses had been used is published at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/HPVvaccine

The benefits of HPV vaccination in protecting against cervical cancer far outweigh any known side effects.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been given the human papillomavirus vaccine. [83124]

Anne Milton: Since the introduction of the human papillomavirus immunisation programme in September 2008, an estimated 2 million females have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and of those, an estimated 1.5 million have received the full three dose course up to September 2011 in England.

KPMG

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the nature was of the organisation and change management consultancy work undertaken by KPMG for his Department in 2010-11. [83523]

Mr Simon Burns: There were two pieces of work provided by KPMG raised against the procurement category heading 'organisation and change management' in financial year 2010-11.

Firstly, KPMG provided intensive project management and implementation support to 16 integrated care pilots (looking at how the health and social care systems can be better integrated to improve health outcomes for patients). The work ranged from conducting site readiness assessments; site support; ongoing site coaching; learning networks and support to and interface with the national evaluation team. The contract ran from March 2009 to September 2010 and concluded six months earlier than originally planned through mutual agreement as it was felt the sites no longer needed the ongoing programme support. The total spend on the contract was £3.45 million (excluding VAT).

Secondly, KPMG undertook the Value Optimisation programme project from December 2009 to May 2010 to assess the value to an average hospital of the added services NHS supply chain offers which are in addition to the value of products supplied, i.e. 48-hours delivery, ward box packing, consolidated invoicing and cataloguing. The study also looked at which products currently purchased directly by the trusts could be provided more cost effectively by NHS supply chain and the specific environmental benefits of using the NHS supply chain route. The total spend on the contract was £259,762 (excluding VAT).

Maternity Services: Nurses

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to improve front-line nursing for premature and sick babies. [83678]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) "Quality Standard for Specialist Neonatal Care" and the "Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services" are valuable tools to assist NHS commissioners and providers in the provision of high quality care for babies and their families. These documents have been placed in the Library and are available at:

"Quality Standard for Specialist Neonatal Care" is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/17A/A8/SpecialistNeonatalQualityStandardRevisedOct10.pdf

"Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services" is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@perf/documents/digitalasset/dh_108435.pdf

Every neonatal unit is now part of a managed clinical network and networks have increased transport services hours and coverage. As set out in the NICE Quality Standard, networks, commissioners and providers will wish to undertake an annual needs assessment and ensure each network has adequate capacity. This includes ensuring there are appropriate numbers of neonatal nurses.

Mental Health Services: Expenditure

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely level of *(a)* over-spending and *(b)* under-spending for each mental health trust in England in 2011-12. [82930]

Mr Simon Burns: At quarter 1 of 2011-12, all mental health national health service trusts were forecasting a surplus.

The aggregate forecast surplus for all mental health NHS trusts, at quarter 1 of 2011-12, was £34 million.

The breakdown of the forecast surplus for all the mental health NHS trusts is shown in the following table:

Mental Health NHS Trust	*2011-12 Quarter 1 forecast surplus/ (operating deficit) (£000)*
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	3,504
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	1,885
Bradford District Care NHS Trust	100
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	2,612
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	785
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	851
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust	442
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	6,384
Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust	994
Mersey Care NHS Trust	4,034
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	1,238
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	4,224
Oxford Learning Disability NHS Trust	400
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	2,207
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	2,533
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	1,500
Total	33,673

Note:
As at quarter 1 of 2010-11, Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust was a mental health trust. However, since 1 July 2011, the trust has become part of Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, which is a care trust.

MRSA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to protect public health from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. [83126]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government continue to encourage the national health service to operate a zero tolerance approach to all avoidable methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections.

The NHS Operating Framework 2012-13 (published 24 November 2011) includes a MRSA objective which will require those organisations who have the highest rates of MRSA bloodstream infections to make the largest reductions.

In this way we will continue to build on the significant progress already made by the NHS and move the performance of all organisations towards the level of the best and, consequently reduce infection rates further.

NHS: Expenditure

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely level of *(a)* over-spending and *(b)* under-spending for each acute service trust in England in 2011-12. [82931]

Mr Simon Burns: At quarter 1 of 2011-12, there were 66 acute service national health service trusts forecasting an aggregate surplus between them, of £159 million.

At quarter 1 of 2011-12, there were six acute service NHS trusts forecasting an aggregate operating deficit of £170 million. These were South London Healthcare NHS Trust (£65 million), Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust (£40 million), Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (£30 million), Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust (£19 million), North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (£10 million) and Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (£6 million).

This means that acute service NHS trusts were forecasting a net aggregate operating deficit of £11 million.

The Department is ensuring that the organisations forecasting a deficit have plans in place for financial recovery, while continuing to improve the quality of services to patients.

The breakdown of the forecast surplus for all the acute service NHS trusts is shown in the following table:

Acute Service NHS Trust	2011-12 Quarter 1 Forecast Surplus/ (Operating Deficit) (£000)
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	(39,798)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	3,000
Barts and The London NHS Trust	2,600
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	1,390
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	5,506
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	2,800
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	4,438
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	0
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	2,217
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	3,500
East Cheshire NHS Trust	250
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	1,889
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	1,333
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	(19,300)
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	1,200
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	6,880
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	0
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4,866
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	(30,000)
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	2,111
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	2,531
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	2,100
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	266
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	833
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	2,275
North Bristol NHS Trust	8,980
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	1,000
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	500
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	(9,700)
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	500
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	1,696
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	3,819
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	580
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	6,352
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	3,502
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	0
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	1,300
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	4,400
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	6,676
Royal Liverpool Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust	5,557
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	6,200
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	7,952
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	1,807
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	1,884
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	0
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	(65,176)
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	5,156
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	1,693
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	7,919
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	250
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	(6,113)
The Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust	1,090
The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	1,070
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	483
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4
University Hospital Of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	1,600
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	4,592
University Hospitals Of Leicester NHS Trust	1,289
Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust	2,500
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4,451
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	1,604
West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust	1,000
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	5,200
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	3,610
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	0
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	885
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Wye Valley NHS Trust	145
Total	(10,856)

NHS: Innovation

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS Chief Executive expects to publish his report on innovation; and whether the report will consider the uptake of medical technology. [81442]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS chief executive will publish his report alongside the Autumn Life Science Package shortly on how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the national health service. The scope of the review covers the spread of innovative technologies, medicines, devices, diagnostics and care pathways. The review will inform the strategic approach to innovation in the modernised NHS. This could include actions for Government, the Department of Health, industry, the National Commissioning Board, the NHS and other sectors.

NHS: Management Consultants

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of contracts between shadow clinical commissioning groups and private consultancy firms in the next financial year. [83547]

Mr Simon Burns: Emerging clinical commissioning groups do not yet have a legal status and cannot award contracts in their own right. Where they are involved in decisions, they will typically do so as a sub-committee of a primary care trust (PCT). PCTs will remain statutorily responsible and accountable for commissioning NHS services in 2012-13.

NHS: Manpower

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of primary care trust staff he expects to be employed by clinical commissioning groups by April 2013. [83546]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill, estimated that 57% of primary care trust staff who were in post at the beginning of April 2011 will transfer to the new organisations. This may be in clinical commissioning groups, the NHS Commissioning Board or local authorities.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Redundancy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies of primary care trust and strategic health authority staff in the next financial year. [83545]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill, estimated that the redundancies resulting from the modernisation will cost £810 million. The estimate for total redundancy costs in primary care trusts is £634 million, and the estimate for strategic health authorities is £84 million.

This upfront cost will result in a £1.5 billion saving per year by 2014-15, which is a one-third reduction in the administrative spending across the system. The upfront costs of the modernisation will be more than recouped from the cost-savings by the end of 2012-13.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Training

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of medical staff working in the NHS in each of the last 10 years were trained outside the UK. [83041]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. The Information Centre for health and social care collects data on the number of medical staff broken down by country of primary medical qualification. The following table shows the percentage of medical staff qualified outside the United Kingdom.

Hospital and Community Health Services: All medical staff and the percentage of medical staff qualified outside the UK, England as at 30 September each year

	All medical staff (Number)	*Qualified outside the UK (Percentage)*
2000	68,158	31.1
2001	70,314	31.9
2002	73,377	33.6
2003	77,088	34.7
2004	83,144	36.7
2005	86,660	38.3
2006	89,411	38.0
2007	90,698	37.0
2008	94,482	36.8
2009	98,619	35.7
2010[1]	99,905	35.5

[1] This is a percentage of the total medical staff whose country of primary medical qualification is known.

Note:
The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the Study for Survival report, published by Pancreatic Cancer UK in September 2011. [83609]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to improving outcomes for all cancer patients, including those with pancreatic cancer. On 12 January, we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" which sets out how we intend to tackle preventable cancer incidence, improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services and deliver outcomes that are comparable with the best in Europe. The strategy sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy.

Departmental officials have had informal discussions with Pancreatic Cancer UK about the Study for Survival report.

Patient Choice Schemes

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the choose and book system. [83385]

Mr Simon Burns: Choose and book is in use in every primary care trust and national health service provider organisation across England as well as many independent sector provider organisations who deliver services commissioned by the NHS. 94% of all general practitioner (GP) practices made bookings through choose and book in the last reporting month.

Since 2004, over 32 million patient referrals have been booked via choose and book and there is an average of over 30,000 patients a day whose appointments are

booked using the system. This includes 50% of GP referrals to first outpatient services and an increasing number of referrals to other services, including those to allied health professionals, diagnostic and community services and GPs with specialist interests.

The following benefits have been reported by users of choose and book:

greater choice of providers as the services listed not only include those that are provided in hospitals but also those that are provided in other settings;

a reduction in referral to treatment time for patients which may lead to shorter care pathways;

increased security of referral information and reliability of booking processes;

increased appropriateness of referrals;

efficiency savings compared to a paper-based process as technology replaces manual booking processes; and

a reduction in did not attend (missed) appointments.

A survey of patient views about choose and book was carried out by the Department in April 2010. The findings were as follows:

89% of patients stated that choose and book was 'Good' or 'Excellent';

95% of patients thought it was 'Easy' or 'Very Easy' to obtain an appointment through choose and book;

56% of patients agreed or strongly agreed that choose and book had improved the management of their referral;

77% 'Agreed' or 'Strongly Agreed' that choose and book had reduced the time to receive an appointment;

59% of patients were able to get an appointment for their chosen date and time (note, out-patient clinics are normally held on specific days and times); and

89% of patients reported being able to go to the hospital of their own choice.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new cases of *(a)* cervical cancer and *(b)* genital warts have been recorded in each year since 1981. [83556]

Paul Burstow: Information concerning the number of new cases of cervical cancer and new and recurrent cases of genital warts diagnosed in each year since 1981 up to the year of latest data availability has been set out in the following tables:

Cervical cancer registrations

	Incidence
1981	3,784
1982	3,710
1983	3,677
1984	3,786
1985	4,073
1986	4,032
1987	3,998
1988	4,041
1989	3,798
1990	3,923
1991	3,386
1992	3,217
1993	3,116
1994	2,998
1995	2,874
1996	2,748
1997	2,708
1998	2,620
1999	2,717
2000	2,468
2001	2,487
2002	2,350
2003	2,372
2004	2,275
2005	2,299
2006	2,405
2007	2,338
2008	2,384
2009	2,747

Notes:
1. Cervical cancer is coded as 180 in the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) and C53 in the Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
2. Figures exclude non-residents.
3. Newly-diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.
4. Latest data available are for 2009.
5. This information has been provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Genital warts (first and recurrent episodes)

Country	*Year*	*Total*
England and Wales	1981	29,704
	1982	33,343
	1983	37,899
	1984	44,050
	1985	52,177
	1986	67,068
	1987	74,542
	1988	75,878
	1989	78,146
England	1990	77,112
	1991	82,618
	1992	84,600
	1993	84,720
	1994	86,725
	1995	89,357
	1996	94,990
	1997	102,071
	1998	105,609
	1999	107,666
	2000	106,836
	2001	108,560
	2002	108,462
	2003	110,314
	2004	113,478
	2005	116,599
	2006	121,068
	2007	130,789
	2008	135,888
	2009	133,080

Genital warts (first and recurrent episodes)

Country	*Year*	*Total*
	2010	129,207

Notes:
1. Data on unknown gender are included in the 'Total' column.
2. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics only. A recent study of genital warts cases (first and recurrence) seen in GUM clinics and in general practice in 2008 has found most cases seen in general practice were referred on to GUM clinics and estimated that around only 5% of cases were seen in general practice only, i.e. figures in the table may represent up to 95% of cases.
3. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
4. The information provided is based on reported data from GUM clinics in England (1981-2010) and Wales (1981-89) that have been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. England only data are not available before 1990.
6. Data are not available for 2011.

Sexually Transmitted Infections: Vaccination

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to *(a)* make and *(b)* announce a decision on whether to proceed with a new vaccination programme for protection against cervical cancer; and what consideration he has given in making that decision in respect of the need for protection against genital warts. [83554]

Anne Milton: On 24 November 2011, the Department announced that following a procurement exercise conducted through competitive tendering for the further supply of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, a three-year contract has been awarded to Sanofi Pasteur MSD for supply of Gardasil®. Vaccine from this contract will be used from September 2012. The award criteria used in the evaluation took into account protection against cervical cancer, non-cervical cancers, and genital warts.

A copy of the award criteria has been placed in the Library.

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of females aged over 15 years who have received protection by vaccination against *(a)* cervical cancer and *(b)* genital warts. [83555]

Anne Milton: By 31 August 2011, we estimate 1.1 million females aged 16 or older in England had received the full course of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (Cervarix®) that provides protection against cervical cancer. This is the vaccine offered in the routine HPV immunisation programme.

Data on the number of females that have received the HPV vaccine (Gardasil®), that also provides protection against genital warts, are not held centrally.

WALES

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports her Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83011]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Number		*Cost (£)*	*Designed and published*
Leaflets	0	—	—	—
Posters	0	—	—	—
Reports	2	Rural Economy Taskforce Report	718.40	Wales Office and Ministry of Justice
		Wales Office Annual Report 2010-11	5,437.56	Wales Office and The Stationery Office

Copies are in the Library of the House.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Remploy

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the cost of maintaining the Remploy factory networks and keeping employment services in the public sector for the next 18 years; and what estimate she has made of the cost of closing the Remploy pension scheme. [80422]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Government consultation on the recommendations of the Sayce report closed on 17 October 2011, and nearly 1400 responses were received. It will take time to analyse the consultation responses in detail and carefully consider the implications for future policy. We will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible.

Importantly, the Government have not made any decisions on these points and sought views through the consultation, by encouraging the widest possible range of people and organisations to respond, including people who work for Remploy or on behalf of its employees in particular.

The future costs of Remploy are dependent on the future policy decisions. Therefore it is not possible to estimate running costs over an 18-month period. The Government funding to Remploy in 2009-10 was £129.95 million. The Remploy accounts for 2010-11 will be published shortly.

TRANSPORT

A14: Cambridgeshire

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with stakeholders on upgrading the A14 in Cambridgeshire; and if she will make a statement. [83534]

Mike Penning: Over the last several months my Department's officials have been engaging with local stakeholders, working together to set up the A14 Study. The study seeks to identify cost effective and practical proposals that bring benefits and relieve congestion, looking across modes to ensure we develop sustainable proposals. This approach will also provide an opportunity for the private sector to play its part in developing schemes to tackle existing problems in the corridor. The study steering group met in July, and agreed first steps for the study. The study is now under way.

Air Passenger Duty

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministers in HM Treasury on changes to air passenger duty following the extension of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to the aviation sector. [82935]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has regular discussions with HM Treasury on a range of aviation issues. Decisions on matters concerning taxation are taken by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Government remains committed to the inclusion of aviation in the EU emissions trading system from 1 January 2012.

Aviation: Economic Growth

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the report from the British Chambers of Commerce on aviation policy's effect on economic growth. [82938]

Mrs Villiers: The Government issued an aviation policy scoping document in March 2011, calling for evidence on a range of strategic issues. The British Chambers of Commerce produced the report 'Flying in the Face of Jobs and Growth' in response to the scoping document. We are reviewing the findings of this report alongside the many contributions to the debate about our future aviation policy. We will issue a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012.

Aviation: Regulation

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in reducing the burden of regulation in the aviation sector. [82937]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are currently undertaking a review of the existing stock of regulation with a view to removing over burdensome regulatory legislation.

As part of this process, in May next year the public and businesses will be invited to submit ideas for regulations in the aviation sector that might be amended or revoked so as to reduce their burden on the industry or on the public as a whole.

Carbon Emissions: Greater London

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received supporting a delay to the application of the Euro4 emission standards in the London low emission zones from January 2012. [80749]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is aware of the strong views of some operators about the new phase of the London low emission zone; however, this scheme is the responsibility of the Mayor of London. Therefore applications to delay introduction of the standards should be made to the Mayor.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the cost to the haulage industry of complying with the Euro4 emission standards in the London low emission zones to be introduced in January 2012; [80750]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to the haulage industry of complying with the Euro5 emission standards in the London Low Emission Zones. [80751]

Mrs Villiers: The London Low Emission Zone is the responsibility of the Mayor of London. Therefore, it would be for the Mayor and Transport for London to assess the compliance costs of the scheme on the haulage industry.

Cycling

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to encourage more people to ride bicycles to their place of work since 2010. [83435]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 737W.

Cycling: Highway Code

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on steps to stop cyclists breaking the Highway Code. [82961]

Mike Penning: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has had no discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department on this issue. The enforcement of cycling offences is, however, an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

Cycling: Safety

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps her Department has taken to increase the safety of cyclists on roads. [82962]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 770W.

Official Cars

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles have been purchased for the use of Government Ministers since June 2010; and where each such vehicle was manufactured. [82722]

Mike Penning: The Government Car Service has purchased four cars for ministerial use since June 2010. All of these were manufactured in the United Kingdom.

Fuels: EU Action

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings her Department has had with *(a)* representatives of the Canadian Government and *(b)* businesses on the proposed EU directive on fuel quality. [82326]

Norman Baker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has not held any meetings with the representatives of the Canadian Government or oil companies regarding the Fuel Quality Directive since joining the Department in October.

Department for Transport Ministers and officials have had numerous meetings with various stakeholders including representatives of oil companies, biofuel producers, trade associations representing the transport fuels industry, UK and international non-governmental organisations (including those representing environmental and social issues), the European Commission, European member states and the Canadian Government to discuss all aspects of the Fuel Quality Directive and will continue to do so as necessary.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an environmental impact assessment for High Speed 2 will include further detailed analysis on the estimate contained in the HS2 Appraisal of Sustainability on the level of carbon emissions produced by the project; and if she will make a statement. [83561]

Justine Greening: Should I make a decision to proceed with the high speed rail scheme, the environmental impact assessment and accompanying environmental statement that would inform the hybrid Bill process would include a detailed assessment of carbon.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the environmental impact assessment for High Speed 2 will include detailed analysis of the potential effect of the project on sites of special scientific interest; and if she will make a statement. [83562]

Justine Greening: Should I make a decision to proceed with the high speed rail scheme, the environmental impact assessment and accompanying environmental statement that would inform the hybrid Bill process would include a detailed analysis of potential impacts on sites of special scientific interest.

Identification: Photographs

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure a competitive market for the provision of ID photographs for driving licences and passports. [82898]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 257-8W, with regard to the provision of photographs for driving licences and passports. Customers wishing to obtain a driving licence have three channels that they can use to provide a photograph. There is effective competition between the three channels driven by customer choice.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received on its consultation on increasing motorway speed limits to 80 mph. [79693]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* The Department has not issued a consultation about increasing motorway speed limits to 80 mph. The Department has received many representations both for and against increasing the motorway speed limit, since the announcement was made on 3 October of an intention to consult about this soon.

Ports: Economic Growth

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the importance of sea port capacity for economic growth potential. [82375]

Mike Penning: The Government consider sea port capacity to be vitally important in facilitating growth in an island economy which has limited alternatives available to the use of sea transport for the movement of freight and bulk commodities. This is reflected in the National Policy Statement for Ports, which is currently before Parliament.

Ports: Radioactive Materials

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times radioactive monitors deployed at UK ports or airports have identified radioactively contaminated foodstuffs from Japan on ships or aircrafts on arrival since 11 March 2011; and what was done with the foodstuffs on each such occasion. [83054]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

Since 11 March 2011 no radioactively contaminated foodstuffs from Japan were detected by UK Border Agency monitors deployed at UK ports and airports.

Rail Value for Money Review

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what external consultants were contracted to work on the McNulty Review on rail value for money; what regular checks were made for potential conflicts of interests; and whether any conflicts of interests were declared. [R] [83169]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 708-9W, to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle), which sets out the details of consultants contracted to work on the McNulty review of Rail Value for Money.

Consultants, by the terms of the contract, were required to declare existing or potential conflicts of interest prior to, and through the life of, the contract.

The McNulty Review was an independent study and as such the Department does not hold records of the ongoing scrutiny undertaken by the study team.

Railways: Accidents

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents with runaway trolleys there have been on the rail network since 15 February 2004; and if she will make a statement. [82347]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is aware of five incidents of runaway trolleys that have been reported to the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) since RAIB became operational in October 2005. All five of these have been subject to a RAIB investigation.

Issues of operational rail safety, and the reporting and recording of these, are primarily a matter for the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), as well as the relevant rail industry duty holders. The hon. Member may wish to contact the ORR for further information at the following address:

Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble street
London
WC2B 4AN

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will encourage train companies to allow standard class ticket holders to sit in first class seats during periods of overcrowding. [83436]

Mrs Villiers: It is an operational matter for train operators to decide whether and, if so, in what circumstances to allow holders of standard class passengers to use first class accommodation (where available). This is permitted under Condition 39 of the National Rail Conditions of Carriage.

Railways: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate her Department has made of the amount of private sector investment in the railway industry in each of the last 10 years; [R] [83164]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the amount of investment train operating companies have made in the railway industry in each of the last 10 years; [R] [83165]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the amount of public subsidy in the railway industry in each of the last 10 years; [R] [83167]

Mrs Villiers: Details of private investment in the rail industry, including that made by train operating companies, along with Government support to the rail industry, is published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in National Rail Trends. This is available on the ORR's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: Safety

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to prevent children from playing on or near railway tracks. [83433]

Mrs Villiers: Initiatives to prevent children from playing on or near the railway are for Network Rail to develop in the first instance. The company deploys a range of national and local initiatives to raise awareness of the risks and dangers of the railway.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal vehicle accidents have occurred where a visitor to the UK driving on the wrong side of the road was a contributory factor in the last 10 years. [83535]

Mike Penning: Table 1 shows the number of reported fatal road accidents which had "inexperience of driving on the left" as a contributory factor, in Great Britain for the period 2005-10. However, it is not known how many drivers involved in such accidents were visitors to Great Britain, or if they were driving on the wrong side of the road at the time of the accident.

Information on contributory factors to road accidents has been collected since 1 January 2005. Please note that contributory factors are reported only for injury road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and reported at least one contributory factor. These factors are largely subjective, reflecting the attending officer's opinion at the time of reporting. It is recognised that subsequent enquires could lead to the reporting officer changing his/her opinion.

Table 1: Number of fatal road accidents[1] with "inexperience of driving on the left" reported as a contributory factor, GB, 2005-10

Year of accident	*Number of fatal road accidents*
2005	8
2006	10
2007	8
2008	12
2009	10
2010	7

[1] Includes only road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Roads: Fees and Charges

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities have received funding from the Transport Innovation Fund for work on road-pricing in each year since the scheme was created. [82940]

Norman Baker: The Transport Innovation Fund was aimed at measures that incorporated demand management and which formed a coherent anti-congestion strategy. The guidance published in January 2006 stated that the Department would be most likely to fund packages that involved road pricing, but might, by exception, be prepared to consider bids involving a workplace parking levy.

The Department's records indicate the following authorities received Transport Innovation Fund Pump Priming monies:

£000

Authorities	*2005-06 to 2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West Midlands PTA	2,668	235	—
Greater Manchester PTA	4,700	8,543	7,650

£000

Authorities	2005-06 to 2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Tyne and Wear PTA	1,700	—	—
Bristol Sub Region[1]	2,168	503	—
Cambridgeshire county council	2,440	1,500	1,134
Shropshire county council	858	—	—
Durham county council	350	—	—
East Midlands Three Cities[2]	1,771	—	—
Reading	680	514	1,426
Norfolk	250	—	—
West Yorkshire PTA		348	1,124
Total[3]	17,584	11,643	11,334

[1] Bristol City, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset, and North Somerset councils
[2] Nottingham, Derby, Leicester city councils, and Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire county councils
[3] The figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Therefore, totals may not be the sum of their components due to rounding.

Roads: Lighting

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to encourage local councils to improve street lighting. [83432]

Norman Baker: It is for each local highway authority to decide what level of service they wish their street lighting network to deliver. Local highway authorities have a duty, under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the public highways in their charge. The duty to maintain the highway includes street lighting. Authorities do not have a duty to light any particular parts of their networks but, where lighting has been provided, the authority has a duty to maintain it.

The Department for Transport is providing £3 billion over the four years from 2011-12 to local highway authorities in England (excluding London) for highways maintenance which can be used for. the street lighting assets. In addition, the Department has approved long-term funding for 32 local authority street lighting projects (including London) with total annuity value for these projects of £2.5 billion.

The Department for Transport is also a member of the UK Lighting Board, a sector led group that meets quarterly to develop and share best practice on the improvement of street lighting. We also endorse the UK Lighting Board's code of practice for highway lighting management, well-lit highways, available at:

http://ukroadsboard.org/en/UKRLG-and-boards/uk-lighting-board/welllit-highways.cfm

This code sets out a framework of recommended guidance and standards for authorities to follow.

Shipping: Inspections

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many safety inspections were carried out on ships using UK ports in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; what the country of registration was of each ship inspected; what the result was of the inspection was in each case; and whether any penalties were imposed. [83345]

Mike Penning: During this period the total number of inspections of ships visiting UK ports was 1,852.

In view of the quantity of data involved the detailed information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Imposition of penalties in relation to ship inspections is normally by detaining a ship found to be unfit to be at sea until the deficiency has been rectified. Ship detentions have been included in the report provided.

Shipping: Rescue Services

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency plans her Department has put in place for a maritime emergency in the South West that requires an emergency towing vehicle with a 200 ton bullard pull capability. [82406]

Mike Penning: HM Coastguard Coordination Centres actively monitor shipping using the automatic identification system (AIS) and will proactively contact ships that are observed to be stopped at sea or behaving erratically. Arrangements have been put in place to monitor tug availability in the waters around the UK and the Coastguard will encourage ship masters, owners and their insurers to take early action to summon tug assistance should ships get into difficulty or become disabled. Coastguards will also advise the principal salvage and towage brokers about the existence of disabled vessels so that they can match market capabilities with demand.

Additionally, HM Coastguard has long-standing arrangements with ports, harbours and tug brokers for the supply of tugs in an emergency situation, and the coastguard agreement on salvage and towage (CAST) provides a further option for the provision of emergency towing.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial model her Department used to estimate the savings that would be made by the removal of emergency towing vessels; and what provision she has made for funding the potential costs of any future major pollution incident. [80629]

Mike Penning: The decision to withdraw the emergency towing vessels (ETVs) was part of the comprehensive spending review package announced in October 2010, and reflected the Government's judgment about the balance of risk of pollution around the UK coast in the event of a maritime accident. This decision was based on the then current running costs of the ETV contract, and the determination that the costs of any future pollution incident will be borne by the polluter on a cost recovery basis.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for her policy that the coastguard agreement on salvage and towage is a suitable alternative to the provision of emergency towing vessels; and what steps she plans to take to ensure that the safety standards provided by the emergency towing vessels are maintained. [80632]

Mike Penning: The Government have taken the view that it is the responsibility of shipowners and operators to protect their interests by engaging commercial tugs and salvors when their ships get into difficulty.

The relevant coastguard co-ordination centres are actively monitoring shipping using the automatic identification system (AIS), and will be proactive in contacting ships that are observed to be stopped at sea or behaving erratically.

The coastguard agreement on salvage and towage (CAST) was not developed to be a like-for-like alternative to the provision of emergency towing vessels (ETVs). The CAST provides tug assistance of last resort, with the cost potentially being borne by Government. It facilitates the prompt hire of tugs on pre-agreed terms, where towage assistance is not immediately available or forthcoming. This also provides the Secretary of State's Representative (SOSREP) with a means to exercise his powers of direction and intervention on maritime salvage and pollution prevention.

SS Richard Montgomery

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of the safety of the wreck of SS Richard Montgomery in the Thames estuary; and if she will make a statement. [82781]

Mike Penning: The latest information on the SS Richard Montgomery was published on 5 September 2011 giving a summary report of the 2008 and 2009 SS Richard Montgomery surveys. A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House. More recent surveys have been done and the results are still being assessed.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 610W, on Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, what the value was of Interfleet's contract with Siemens in each case where there was a potential conflict of interest. [R] [81314]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The detail of these contracts is a matter between Siemens and Interfleet rather than the Department.

Transport Sector Transparency Board

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she will publish the minutes of the *(a)* September and *(b)* November 2011 meetings of the Transport Sector Transparency Board. [83338]

Mrs Villiers: I have agreed to the publication of the minutes of the Transport Sector Transparency Board. The minutes of the September and November meetings will be published on the Department for Transport website within the next two weeks. All subsequent board meeting minutes will also be published on the website.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information he has on the annual average number of lorry movements associated with a biomass generating plant of *(a)* 10MW, *(b)* 20MW and *(c)* 100MW capacity. [83032]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold this information.

Lorry movements and other potential impacts associated with new biomass generating plant are considered within the planning process. For proposed plants of 50 MW or below the application is considered by the local planning authority in the normal planning regime. Above that threshold, the Department continues to process legacy applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. However, with effect from 1 March 2010 any new applications for nationally significant energy infrastructure projects (50 MW and above onshore) are handled under the Planning Act 2008 regime. Information on recent and current Section 36 applications is available from the DECC Energy Infrastructure online portal[1]; applications under the Planning Act 2008 regime are available on the Infrastructure Planning Commission's website[2].

[1] *Note:*
https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/overview.htm

[2] *Note:*
http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/

In April we introduced sustainability criteria to the Renewables Obligation that includes a requirement for power plant operators to report annually on the greenhouse gas emissions lifecycle of their biomass electricity. The lifecycle includes consideration of the emissions associated with the transport of the biomass feedstocks as well as cultivation and processing. This requirement applies to existing as well as new biomass generating plant.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the average proportion of stemwood combusted in biomass generating plants in the UK in each of the last five years. [83646]

Gregory Barker: The sustainability reporting requirements under the renewables obligation (RO) do not require operators to provide this level of detail.

The types of wood reported to Ofgem as combusted in biomass generating stations include brash, recycled wood, wood from tree surgery, forestry and timber processing rejects, forest stumps, sawmill co-products and offcuts, forestry waste wood, wood pellets, recycled fibre, small roundwood, sawdust and sawmill chip. Of these, only brash and forest stumps would be considered as sources that specifically exclude stemwood content. Other sources except roundwood may contain a mix of stemwood and non-stemwood.

Wood provided around 36% of the five million tonnes of solid biomass and energy crop reported as feedstocks in the renewables obligation (RO) returns for 2010-11.

The returns submitted to Ofgem give a total of 1.82 million tonnes of wood as combusted from April 2010 to March 2011. 16,088 tonnes, around 0.9% of the total wood, was reported as sourced from brash and/or forest stumps.

Wood provided around 53% of the 4.1 million tonnes of solid biomass and energy crop reported as feedstocks in the renewables obligation returns for 2009-10.

The returns submitted to Ofgem give a total of 2.14 million tonnes of wood combusted from April 2009 to March 2010. 21,330 tonnes, equivalent to around 1% of the total wood, was reported as sourced from brash and/or forest stumps.

Biomass sustainability reporting was introduced under the renewables obligation in April 2009.

We do not hold data prior to this date.

Boilers

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of domestic properties without a condensing boiler. [82698]

Gregory Barker: There are around 26 million dwellings in Great Britain. 2009, the last year for which official figures have been published, shows that there are approximately 22 million gas and oil boilers, an estimated six million condensing boilers, and 16 million non-condensing boilers. Over 1.5 million new condensing gas boilers are installed each year. The remaining four million dwellings use a mix of electric, solid fuel or district heating to heat their homes.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the recently published carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency league tables; and if he will make a statement. [83495]

Gregory Barker: The first CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme performance league table clearly shows organisations who have taken clear action on energy management prior to the start of the scheme. The level of interest and coverage around the publication of the league table shows that organisations, trade press, consumers and investors have a real interest in comparing the energy efficiency performance of competing organisations. It is therefore anticipated that this annual publication will act as a reputational driver for many organisations to give energy efficiency higher priority.

Carbon Sequestration: Contracts

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he plans to start the tender process for the UK carbon capture and storage demonstration project; [82184]

(2) whether the UK tender process and associated funding for the carbon capture and storage programme will be completed in time to meet the deadline for the European Union ER300 programme. [82185]

Charles Hendry: The Government remains firmly committed to carbon capture and storage (CCS) and there are a number of promising projects proposed in the UK. We will launch a streamlined selection process for future CCS projects as soon as possible and my Department will expand on our plans later this year. I can confirm that the £1 billion remains available for this. We recognise the benefit of aligning the UK selection process with the NER300 programme and are making every effort to achieve this.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his priorities will be for the forthcoming Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [83533]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to making further progress at the Conference of the Parties in Durban on implementing what we achieved at Cancun last year by continuing to put in place the global climate architecture (including for climate finance, adaptation, forests, technology and measuring and reporting emissions). We also want to make progress towards a single legally binding instrument which commits all major economies to binding targets to lower their emissions and, recognising that the emissions reduction pledges on the table so far are collectively not ambitious enough to be consistent with keeping the increase in global temperatures below 2°, we need to make progress in reaching, a common understanding on the size of this gap and how we can close it.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83784]

Gregory Barker: The Government Buying Standards mandatory criteria in respect of eggs currently apply to fresh, in-shell eggs. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be making necessary changes to the Government Buying Standards mandatory criteria to ensure eggs produced in conventional cages, an illegal production system across the EU after 2012, should not be used in any form whether this is fresh, powdered or liquid.

DECC receives its catering services through a contract procured by DEFRA, and so through this contract will comply with this mandatory criteria. DECC will also ensure that its NDPBs are alerted to this forthcoming mandatory criteria.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83785]

Gregory Barker: DECC receives its catering services through a contract procured by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DEFRA is working with the caterer to ensure that Government Buying Standards are met in full.

The percentage of food under the contract between May and September 2011 that was sourced from the UK was:

Meat: 43.5%

Poultry: 67.1%

Fruit and vegetable: 23.3% of total, 38.5% of indigenous.

In relation to those DECC non-departmental public bodies who have contracts covering catering:

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) facilities management provider is responsible for the provision of catering through a contract with an external catering company. The NDA do not hold figures on the proportion of food sourced from UK producers.

The Coal Authority currently procure 95% of food from UK producers.

Press Releases

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that significant policy announcements from his Department are made in the House prior to their release to the media. [83441]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 23 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 313, during the Annual Energy Statement debate.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral statement of 23 November 2011 on the Annual Energy Statement, if he will publish the media strategy in relation to his announcement listing all media interviews *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department carried out prior to the oral statement in the House. [83442]

Gregory Barker: No such interviews were given prior to the oral statement.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral statement of 23 November 2011 on the Annual Energy Statement, with which third parties his Department discussed the Annual Energy Statement prior to his oral statement to the House. [83443]

Gregory Barker: Neither the Annual Energy Statement, nor any of the documents published alongside it, were shared with any third parties prior to the oral statement.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral statement of 23 November 2011 on the annual energy statement, if he will publish the media grid his Department used in relation to that statement, including the *(a)* journalists and *(b)* media outlets that received briefings; and when such briefings took place. [83444]

Gregory Barker: No journalists or media outlets were given briefings on the content of the oral statement of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 299-302, until after it had taken place.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral statement of 23 November 2011 on the annual energy statement, if he will instigate an inquiry on disclosure by the media of the annual energy statement prior to it being made to the House. [83445]

Gregory Barker: Neither the annual energy statement, nor any of the documents published alongside it, were shared with the media prior to the oral statement of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 299-302.

Diesel Fuel: Refineries

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government is taking to increase the UK's diesel refining capacity. [83854]

Charles Hendry: The Department recognises that petroleum products will remain a major component of the UK's primary energy mix for at least the next 20 years. We are working with other Government Departments and the UK refining industry to develop a strategic policy framework for the UK refining sector. Part of this work will consider a number of future development scenarios for UK refining, including enhanced diesel and jet fuel manufacturing capacity, in terms of their potential security of supply and wider economic implications, and will examine the range of EU and UK policies that impact upon the sector.

Electricity Generation

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many gallons of water are required to produce one megawatt hour of energy in the UK from *(a)* solar PV, *(b)* solar thermal, *(c)* wind, *(d)* coal, *(e)* oil, *(f)* biofuel, *(g)* nuclear and *(h)* geothermal. [83030]

Gregory Barker: We do not have figures for the amount of water used to produce one megawatt hour of energy in the UK from different primary energy sources.

Water is used at three main stages in the production of energy: when extracting resources such as coal, oil and uranium; while processing fuels; and during energy conversion, such as in a thermal power station. There have been many studies trying to estimate the "water footprint" of producing energy, but most only look at one or more of these stages and so do not give a complete picture.

Energy: Conservation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what percentage he expects the *(a)* Green Deal and *(b)* Energy Companies Obligation to reduce the UK's energy consumption; what his policy is regarding the proposed EU Energy Efficiency Directive; and if he will make a statement. [83563]

Gregory Barker: An impact assessment of the Green Deal and ECO was published alongside the draft statutory instruments on 23 November 2011. This stated that, under the Government's preferred option, the policy would deliver 21 TWh of energy savings in 2020. This is

approximately 1.3% of the UK's projected final energy consumption in 2020. The impact assessment can be found here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

There is a considerable level of uncertainty around both the estimates of energy savings and final energy consumption. The actual levels of take-up of energy efficiency measures will be influenced by a wide range of factors including energy prices and consumer attitudes towards the Green Deal.

The Government support the aims and objectives of the proposed EU energy efficiency directive but believe that many of the proposed requirements are over-prescriptive with the potential to cut across the policy framework in the UK. We will therefore be seeking much greater flexibility for member states while at the same time securing directive that delivers energy savings across the EU.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made any assessment of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of (i) consumption targets and (ii) intensity targets for energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [83565]

Gregory Barker: The UK already has an indicative target for energy savings by 2016 under the EU energy end use efficiency and services directive. The UK is expected to exceed this target and, compared to the baseline, UK policy measures will lead to more than 200TWh energy savings by 2016.[1]

The European Commission has also proposed, in the draft energy efficiency directive, that member states set themselves an indicative primary energy consumption target for 2020, and that member states establish energy efficiency obligation schemes requiring all energy suppliers (or distributors) to meet an annual energy-saving target based on energy sales in the previous year. However, as negotiations are still in process, it is unclear what form these targets might ultimately take and what, if any, target the UK might subsequently adopt. Therefore, we are not currently able to assess any associated costs and benefits.

[1] DECC, UK report on articles 4 and 14 of the EU end-use efficiency and energy services directive, July 2011

Energy: EU Action

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with their EU counterparts on (i) the Green Deal and (ii) the Green Investment Bank; and if he will make a statement. [83566]

Gregory Barker: I discussed the Green Deal specifically with Katherina Reiche, from the German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) during my visit to Berlin earlier this year. Energy efficiency issues and the Green Investment Bank have come up in the course of my more general discussions with a range of EU counterparts. Officials have discussed the Green Deal and GIB with counterparts in several EU institutions and EU member states including the Netherlands, Germany and Ireland. Green Deal officials have also had discussions with the European Investment Bank over the last year.

Energy: Housing

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will issue guidance to local authorities pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 on the installation in residential accommodation of *(a)* micro combined heat and power boilers and *(b)* passive flue gas heat recovery systems; and if he will make a statement. [82856]

Gregory Barker: The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities (LAs) to report on action to improve the energy efficiency in their residential accommodation. The Government's proposals for the Green Deal will fundamentally alter the landscape against which LAs will fulfil this requirement.

The Green Deal consultation document was published on 23 November and Annex A sets out the eligible measures. Both micro combined heat and power boilers and passive flue gas heat recovery systems are included.

LAs will need to time to consider the Green Deal proposals and what this means for their local energy efficiency plans. We therefore propose to issue new HECA guidance in spring 2012.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he proposes to issue guidance to local authorities regarding the excuse of their responsibilities under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; and whether such guidance will include *(a)* targets for local authorities regarding increases in home energy efficiency, *(b)* targets for local authorities to reduce the number of households in fuel poverty and *(c)* ways in which community groups, local businesses and other local people may be involved in helping to deliver reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases, greater energy efficiency and local green energy; [83557]

(2) pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State in his Department, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle, of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1103, on Second Reading of the Energy Bill [*Lords*], what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to breathe new life into the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; [83558]

(3) if, in exercise of the power conferred on him by section 4(2) of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, he will issue guidance to local authorities as to what levels of improvements in energy efficiency are to be regarded as significant. [83560]

Gregory Barker: The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities (LAs) with housing responsibilities to report on action to improve the energy efficiency in their residential accommodation. The Government's proposals for the Green Deal will fundamentally alter the landscape against which LAs will fulfil this requirement.

The Green Deal consultation document was published on 23 November and we aim to have final proposals available early next year. LAs will need to time to consider the Green Deal proposals and what this means

for their plans for energy efficiency locally. With this in mind we therefore propose to issue new HECA guidance in spring 2012.

We are currently considering the future scope of guidance under HECA and will develop proposals in partnership with local government in the context of DECC's Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Association.

Energy: Meters

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure smart meters are provided to all residential gas and electricity customers. [82634]

Charles Hendry: The Government will place regulatory obligations on energy suppliers that will require them to take all reasonable steps to install smart meters for all their domestic and smaller non-domestic customers by the completion date in 2019.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether households will be able to choose not to have a smart meter installed if they have concerns about the health effects of exposure to radio frequency, such as non-thermal health effects. [82918]

Charles Hendry: We expect the benefits of smart meters, such as providing consumers with control over their energy usage and an end to estimated bills, will lead to demand for them from consumers.

To ensure that all customers are able to benefit from smart meters, we will require suppliers to take all reasonable steps to install smart meters. However, we recognise that there may be some circumstances where it would not be practical to install a smart meter.

We have made it clear that we do not expect suppliers to seek an entry warrant simply to fit a smart meter and it will not be an offence for householders to refuse to accept a smart meter.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 491W, on meters: radio frequencies, what recent steps he has taken to alleviate concerns of people who experience non-thermal health effects of exposure to electromagnetic microwave radiation. [82920]

Charles Hendry: We have continued to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the smart meters programme. For example, the consultation on the technical specification of smart meters was sent to a wide variety of stakeholders for their consideration, including those that have an interest in health issues. The draft technical specification includes reference to the fact that, to be compliant, a smart meter must comply with the internationally agreed guidelines set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

We also continue to respond to letters and inquiries as they come through to us, including those from members of the public or stakeholder bodies who have questions about electromagnetic sensitivity and smart meters.

Energy: Prices

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the number of energy customers who switched suppliers *(a)* once and *(b)* twice or more in each of the last five years. [82159]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the number of customers who have switched from one supplier to another during the last five years.

	Million	
	Electricity	*Gas*
2006	4.836	3.912
2007	5.157	3.981
2008	5.427	4.158
2009	5.022	3.825
2010	4.746	3.558

The data are collected by Ofgem and do not show how many times a customer may have switched.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that all customers can access the best energy deals regardless of their financial situation. [82878]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the rules that govern a supplier's right to block a customer from accessing other gas or electricity deals if an amount remains outstanding on their energy account 28 days after it has been formally demanded. If a customer wishes to switch, their supplier will issue a blocking notice which requires the customer to repay the debt within 30 working days in order for the switch to proceed.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* Ofgem plan to take to monitor the pricing practices of energy companies in respect of (i) doorstep selling and (ii) pre-payment meters. [82879]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the marketing activities used by supply companies and energy tariffs. In 2009, Ofgem brought in new rules on (i) doorstep selling, that require any information used during the sales process to be complete, accurate and not misleading and (ii) pricing, including rules to prevent unfair price differentials, such as those between different payment methods. It is for Ofgem to investigate any allegations of the rules being breached and to take any necessary action.

Ofgem are currently investigating a number of suppliers regarding their compliance with their doorstep selling rules and Ofgem have also reported on the effectiveness of their rules on cost reflective pricing. They have found that prepayment meter (PPM) customers now pay, on average, £20 less than standard credit customers for their gas and electricity. They have also found that direct debit customers now pay, on average, £70 less than PPM for gas and electricity, which is within the £88 indicative cost difference between providing and servicing a PPM compared to a direct debit account,

identified by Ofgem. A copy of the full Ofgem Retail Market Report is available online at:

www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/rmr/Documents1/RMR_FINAL.pdf

We support Ofgem's actions in tackling unjustified tariff premiums to ensure consumers do not lose out and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has also announced that the Government are considering giving Ofgem additional powers to secure redress for consumers where they have lost out as a result of a licence or energy regulation breach.

Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on *(a)* his proposed reforms to feed-in tariffs and *(b)* the Memorandum of Understanding between his Department and the Association in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [82692]

Gregory Barker: The Local Government Association (LGA) have been actively involved in discussions on the review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and councillor Richard Kemp of the LGA in March 2011, and was discussed at a meeting on 28 November between the Secretary of State and the LGA.

Fuel Poverty: Cancer

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has considered providing support to cancer patients in fuel poverty to find the most appropriate tariff for their energy supplies. [83476]

Gregory Barker: The eligibility criteria and type of support provided within the Warm Home Discount scheme were considered in the Warm Home Discount consultation and accompanying impact assessment. These documents, together with the Government's response are available via:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/warmhome/warmhome.aspx

This year I am aware that a number of energy suppliers are working with Macmillan Cancer Support under the industry initiatives section of the Warm Home Discount scheme to provide support to cancer patients in fuel poverty and I fully support these initiatives.

Fuel Poverty: Preston

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Preston constituency living in fuel poverty. [83929]

Gregory Barker: Estimates for the numbers of pensioners in fuel poverty are not made on a sub-regional basis. The number of households in the Preston constituency in fuel poverty in 2009 was 9,500 (25% of households in the Preston constituency).

In England in 2009, 2,045,000 households containing someone aged 60 or over were in fuel poverty (27%).

Green Deal Scheme: Solar Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to co-ordinate the introduction of the Green Deal with the uptake of solar photovoltaics in residential buildings. [83324]

Gregory Barker: The proposed energy efficiency requirement set out in the 31 October consultation on the feed-in tariffs scheme is intended to provide an additional incentive for the uptake of the Green Deal, as households improving their energy efficiency will have access to higher tariffs for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations.

The legal framework and supporting guidance that is needed for the Green Deal will be in place by October 2012. In the consultation we are proposing as a transitional measure that solar PV installations between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 would have 12 months from their eligibility date to meet the energy efficiency requirement.

Nuclear Installations: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to receive the Office for Nuclear Regulation's first report on the state of security in the civil nuclear industry and the effectiveness of security regulation; and what plans he has to distribute the report. [82309]

Charles Hendry: The latest report was published on 21 November 2011 and is available in the House Library and on the Health and Safety Executive's website. The report states that, for the period it covers, the civil nuclear industry applied the relevant security regulations in accordance with the standards required of it and that those regulations achieved the purpose for which they were designed.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the feed-in tariff scheme has been taken up by *(a)* investors and *(b)* individual home and business owners. [81367]

Gregory Barker: The Ofgem Central Feed-in Tariffs Register does not make a specific distinction between FITs payments received by investors and those received by individual home/business owners. However, the register (as at 23 November 2011) does show that of the 109,810 installations in total, 97.7% are domestic, 1.7% are commercial, 0.1% are industrial and 0.6% are community installations.

The most recent available figures also show that for 19.6% of solar photovoltaic installations, the generator or nominated recipient was in receipt of FITs payments for more than one PV installations.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives from the oil-fired heating industry to discuss the inclusion of bioliquids in the renewable heat incentive. [81452]

Gregory Barker: As stated in the renewable heat incentive policy document (published in March), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme.

I have asked my officials to engage with Oftec (Oil Firing Technical Association) who represent members of the oil-fired heating industry. They have provided useful evidence which we are considering. I therefore do not propose to meet members of the oil-fired heating industry at this time.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives from the oil-fired heating industry to discuss the inclusion of bioliquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive. [82068]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him today to question 81452.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to decide whether to include bioliquids in the renewable heat incentive; and when he plans to announce his decision. [83526]

Gregory Barker: As stated in the renewable heat incentive policy document (published in March), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme. In the light of the later than expected launch of phase 1 of the renewable heat incentive and of the changes required by the European Commission, we are reviewing the timetable for the introduction of phase 2 and will confirm the timetable early next year.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet representatives from the Oil Firing Technical Association to discuss the inclusion of bioliquids in the renewable heat incentive. [83528]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter) today to question 81452.

Social Rented Housing: Energy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of rising energy prices on housing revenue account tenanted properties; [83647]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of rising energy prices on the cost of communal heating in housing revenue account tenanted properties. [83648]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessment has been made for housing revenue account tenanted properties.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of companies that will be forced to cease trading as a result of the proposed reductions to solar photovoltaic feed-in tariffs. [82249]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold relevant information on which to base any estimate of companies that will be forced to cease trading in the UK solar industry. The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The impact assessment does not estimate the specific impact of the proposed changes, or the potential new business opportunities arising from the consultation proposals on energy efficiency, on the UK solar industry.

Current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the approximately 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched, and the proposed new tariffs are intended to ensure that returns go back to this level.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy *(a)* not to change future rates for the feed-in tariff between its scheduled annual review dates and *(b)* to honour contracts entered into, with deposits paid, for photovoltaic systems up to the date of his 31 October announcement of a 50 per cent. reduction in the rate of the feed-in tariff. [83117]

Gregory Barker: We will publish a second consultation around the end of 2011 which will consider other aspects of the scheme including the tariffs for other FIT technologies and proposals for introducing new cost control mechanisms for FITs to ensure the scheme stays within the spending envelope. In doing so, we are looking to develop a cost control mechanism that will minimise the need to make rapid and unscheduled changes to the scheme.

Our consultation on tariffs for solar PV proposes that new tariffs will be implemented from 1 April 2012 but will apply to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after a proposed "reference date" of 12 December 2011.

The proposals are designed to strike a balance between the need for quick action and the desire to allow people an opportunity to finish work that is well under way. The proposed six-week period will allow many prospective generators who have made a financial commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to do this. We will consider all representations made during the consultation, including those related to the proposed reference date.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he took of the tax revenues raised previously from businesses supplying photovoltaic systems when determining the reduction in the rate of the feed-in tariff at 50 per cent.; what estimate he has made of the impact on photovoltaic business suppliers' viability of reducing the rate of the feed-in tariff by 50 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [83118]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment supporting the consultation on FITs for solar PV:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

sets out the impact on the level of employment as a result of the change to the feed-in tariffs. It estimates that 1,000 to 10,000 gross full-time employee jobs could be supported in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under the proposals. This estimate relates to solar PV installations only and does not account for jobs created as a result of the proposed energy efficiency requirement.

The impact assessment did not consider previous tax revenues.

Water: Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will adapt the Green Deal assessment of a household to include water efficiency measures. [83613]

Gregory Barker: A number of hot water efficiency measures will be included in the Green Deal assessment and may be eligible for Green Deal finance. General advice on wider water efficiency issues will also be provided to households as part of Green Deal advice.

Wind Power: Costs

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to reduce the cost of offshore wind power. [82943]

Charles Hendry: The UK is the global leader for offshore wind and well placed to continue this lead role up to 2020 and beyond. In the Renewable Energy Roadmap published in July 2011 we set out that up to 18 GW could be deployed by 2020. However, to realise this potential will require a substantial reduction in the levelised cost of energy for this technology. We have announced the establishment of an industry-led Task Force to set out an action plan to reduce the costs of offshore wind to £100/MWh by 2020. The Task Force, which is due to report in the spring next year, is chaired by Andrew Jamieson, Chair of Renewable UK, and supported by 15 other members from industry with support from Government and The Crown Estate. The Task Force has met twice since it was established.

DECC is also providing a further £30 million of direct innovation support for offshore wind cost reduction. The first £5 million call for proposals under this scheme was launched on 22 November.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the full bidding guidance for funding from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme. [82897]

Robert Neill: We will announce further details about the Weekly Collection Support Scheme shortly, and we will publish the full bidding guidance and invite bids in the new year.

Energy Performance Certificates

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of homes in England has an energy performance certificate. [83047]

Andrew Stunell: As of 20 November 2011, approximately 6.73 million energy performance certificates had been produced for homes in England that have been constructed, sold or rented out since August 2007. This figure includes some homes for which more than one certificate has been produced. It is estimated, based on the latest estimate for the total dwelling stock (22.69 million in October 2010), that approximately 30% of homes in England currently have an energy performance certificate.

EU Grants and Loans: North East Region

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1179-80W, on EU Grants and Loans: North East, what the monetary value was of the funding to the North East England 2007-13 European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness Programme that remained uncommitted at the end of October 2011. [82950]

Robert Neill: The monetary value of the North East England European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness Programme 2007-13 that remained uncommitted at the end of October 2011 was £123 million.

The 2007-13 allocation must be spent by 2015.

I also refer the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 1 August 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, which outlines how the European Regional Development Fund has previously been plagued by a legacy of poor administration, and how this Government have overhauled the management of these schemes. As a result of these measures, the European Commission lifted an interruption on the programme which it had ordered. These steps will also protect taxpayers from the prospect of "financial corrections" being levied due to poor administration, as happened under the 2000-06 programme.

Housing: Fire Extinguishers

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the use of automatic fire suppression systems in residential properties in other countries. [83525]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not held centrally. My officials do, as far as possible, keep abreast of relevant international developments and ensure that any research or analysis uses all available data.

The cost benefit analysis that formed part of 2005 study into the effectiveness of residential sprinklers relied extensively on US data where UK data were not available. More recently, the 2010 "Cost Benefit Analysis of Options to Reduce the Risk of Fire and Rescue in Areas of New Build Homes" took account of US and New Zealand data as part of the research literature review. The 2010 report is available on the DCLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/costbenefitfirenewbuild.pdf

Housing: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were constructed in *(a)* Pendle constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last five years. [82924]

Andrew Stunell: A table showing the number of new build dwellings completed by year in each local authority district in Lancashire, including Pendle, is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website (Live Table 253):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Lancashire total figures are available only for 2009-10 due to incomplete district data for the other years.

Housing Reform: Media

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral statement of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 43, on housing reform, if he will publish the media strategy in relation to his announcement listing all media interviews the Minister for Housing and Local Government carried out prior to the oral statement. [82880]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The planned publication of the Government's national housing strategy, Laying the Foundations, on the morning of Monday 21 November, generated a significant amount of media interest. Prior notice was given to the House that a written statement was to be made on housing. As a result of this interest, as the Minister for Housing and Local Government, I accepted a number of requests for interviews from national and regional broadcasters on the morning of publication.

A number of the fundamental measures contained in the housing strategy had been announced to the House previously. I refer the hon. Member in particular to my written statement of 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 46WS, announcing details of New Homes Bonus funding to provide local authorities with a real incentive to deliver housing growth; the written statement from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1WS, which outlined our reforms to the right to buy, funding to tackle empty homes, the proposed introduction of a "pay to stay scheme" for social tenants on incomes of greater than £100,000 per annum and work to release public sector land to support the building of 100,000 new homes; and the statement of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 9WS, which announced details of the Government's £500 million Growing Places Fund to support infrastructure and unlock stalled housing sites.

Given these statements, it was quite legitimate to engage in a public debate whilst making clear, as I did, that full details of new policy proposals would only be released later in the day after the House had been notified.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 61, Points of Order, with which third parties his Department discussed its housing reform proposals prior to his oral statement to the House. [82881]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Discussions took place with a range of third parties in the run up to publication of the housing strategy, to inform policy development, strengthen our evidence base and ensure that the strategy responded to issues and concerns across the housing market. In setting up the mortgage indemnity scheme, which is externally led, it would have been impossible not to talk to lenders, builders and sector organisations.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Housing and Local Government of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 58, on housing reform, and the contribution of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 61, Points of Order, if he will instigate an inquiry on disclosure by the media of the housing reform statement prior to it being made to the House. [82882]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him in PQs 82880 and 82881 on 29 November 2011 and to the statement of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 61.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his oral statement of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 43, on housing reform, if he will publish the media grid his Department used in relation to that statement, including the *(a)* journalists and *(b)* media outlets that received briefings; and when such briefings took place. [82883]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* A press notice was released by my Department's press office after the deposit of the written ministerial statement and associated documents in the Library of the House, and was distributed widely.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that significant policy announcements from his Department are made in the House prior to their release to the media. [82884]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government ensures as a matter of course that Parliament is informed of significant policy announcements, usually by written ministerial statement.

Planning Permission: Taxation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research his Department has conducted into the merits of tax on the land value uplift created by the granting of planning permission. [83322]

Robert Neill: The Department has conducted no recent research into the merits of a tax on the land value uplift created by the granting of planning permissions.

The last Government planned the introduction of a planning gain supplement (including introducing preparatory legislation), but abandoned the policy, no doubt because of the likelihood of uncertainty, lengthy negotiations and legal disputes arising from the complex calculations of the value of the uplift.

Attempts by previous Governments to introduce land development taxes resulting from planning permission (the 1947 development charge, the 1967 betterment levy, the development gains tax introduced in 1973 and the development land tax in 1976) were similarly ineffective or unsuccessful.

The community infrastructure levy came into force in April 2010 (amended in April 2011) and allows local authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. Where it is charged the incidence of the levy will fall to land-owners whose land typically rises in value upon the granting of planning permission ('uplift'); the Department published an impact assessment to accompany the introduction of the community infrastructure levy:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/infrastructurelevyfinal

Similarly, planning agreements ('section 106 agreements'), between local authorities and developers, allow local authorities to access the development value that arises through the granting of planning permissions to ensure that the development is acceptable in planning terms. The Department has conducted a number of research projects on such agreements:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningresearch/researchreports/planningobligationsresearch/

Rented Housing: Greater London

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the extent to which landlords have evicted tenants in London in order to let their properties at higher prices during the London 2012 Olympics; whether he plans to take steps to discourage this practice; and if he will make a statement. [82976]

Andrew Stunell: We have received no evidence that landlords are seeking to evict tenants in order to let at higher rents during the London 2012 Olympics. Any landlord seeking to evict a tenant would need to operate within the existing legal framework which entitles most tenants to an initial fixed term of six months, and two months' notice of eviction. That framework would also apply to any new tenancy. Landlords seeking to let properties on a short term basis only may need to seek planning permission for a change of use of their property from a residential to commercial let.

Right to Buy Scheme: Greater London

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of households in each local authority in London which have a right to buy. [83627]

Grant Shapps: We do not have estimates of the number of households in each local authority area in London which have a right to buy. However, an approximation of this can be observed from related statistics.

Table 100 available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

shows the dwelling stock by tenure in each local authority district. Tenants of occupied local authority owned properties who have been in social housing for five years or more are entitled to right to buy.

Estimates of the number of tenants entitled to right to buy in each local authority area are not available. However, the English Housing Survey provides an estimate of the length of current residency for tenants at a regional level. This shows that in 2009-10 around 300,000 households in local authority owned stock in London had been in their current accommodation for five or more years. However, this does not capture those that have previously been resident in social housing prior to their current accommodation and therefore is likely to be an underestimate of the proportion that are eligible for right to buy.

Furthermore, some tenants living in housing association stock from pre-1989 will also have the right to buy and also some tenants living in housing association stock which has been transferred from local authorities have the preserved right to buy.

Standards for England: Credit Cards

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library what the *(a)* date, *(b)* transaction type, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* merchant type or supplier description was of each transaction made on the Standards Board corporate credit card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [82150]

Robert Neill: The requested information has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Standards Board is being abolished following the passage of the Localism Act.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ascension Island: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to Ascension Island in each of the last 10 years. [83197]

Mr Duncan: Ascension does not receive financial assistance from the Department for International Development. Its costs are supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Central African Republic: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding for development aid his Department has allocated to the Central African Republic in each of the last 10 years. [83155]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated the following funds to the Central African Republic (CAR) over the last 10 years. DFID has provided humanitarian assistance and other support through multilateral partners such as the United Nations.

Financial year	*£000*
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	2,197
2007-08	1,134
2008-09	3,615
2009-10	2,706
2010-11	1,291

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to monitor how UK development aid to the Central African Republic is used. [83158]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have an office in the Central African Republic (CAR). However, DFID has provided humanitarian assistance and other support through multilateral partners such as the United Nations.

The results from our contributions to these organisations are regularly monitored through agreed reporting mechanisms such as quarterly reporting and progress updates.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83006]

Mr Duncan: I will place in the Library a copy of the Department for International Development expenditure on published leaflets and reports since May 2010. The names of the company that published (if printed) and/or designed has been included. No posters were published in this period.

It is not possible to provide full information for leaflets, posters and reports published by our offices overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Water

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to attend the Sanitation and Water for All high-level meeting in Washington DC in April 2012. [83624]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the work of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to increase accountability of both developing countries and donors for delivering results on the ground.

DFID recognise that it will be important to have a strong UK presence at the next high-level meeting in April 2012. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development has not as yet planned his detailed involvement at the spring meetings. DFID will give this important meeting the due consideration that it deserves, and will ensure that the UK is appropriately represented.

Fragile States: Politics and Government

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to strengthen governance and security in fragile and conflict-affected states. [83817]

Mr Duncan: Capable and legitimate governance institutions are critical for ending cycles of violence and instability in fragile and conflict-affected states. Following last year's bilateral aid review, the coalition Government are committed to strengthening governance and security in all 21 fragile and conflict-affected states where we work. The Government will spend approximately 16% of their bilateral programme on governance and security-related activities over the next four years. This includes programmes to:

(a) Support elections, parliaments and democratic governance;

(b) Empower citizens to take control of their own affairs and hold governments to account;

(c) Improve security and justice for poor people, and reduce violence against women;

(d) Build the capacity of national and local level governments to deliver health, education and other key services;

(e) Promote effective and sustainable tax systems which strengthen accountability and facilitate the exit from aid.

Humanitarian Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial resources his Department has allocated to dealing with humanitarian disasters in the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period. [83818]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has set aside an allocation of £20.9 million to deal with rapid onset disasters for each remaining year of the comprehensive spending review period to 31 March 2015. We also have additional funds available to draw on should they be required as disasters occur.

Following DFID's Multilateral Aid Review and the UK Government Response to the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review we have also agreed predictable multi-year humanitarian core funding of £768.9 million for UN agencies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies over the comprehensive spending review period 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on supporting reform of governance in *(a)* Pakistan, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* Iraq. [83816]

Mr Duncan: I have regular conversations with the Foreign Secretary about the UK's engagement in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq at the cross-Government National Security Council meetings. Improving governance is a key focus of Her Majesty's Government's country business plans for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to his questions 83418, 83419 and 83420 on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 671W, 662W and 669W. Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) work closely on strengthening standards of governance in all three countries, including through joint assistance provided to the UK Conflict Pool.

Pitcairn Island: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of development aid to Pitcairn Island; and if he will make a statement. [83154]

Mr Duncan: The UK is obliged under the UN Charter to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the Overseas Territories (OTs). The International Development Act 2002 exempts the territories from the poverty criteria that apply to the rest of the aid budget. Successive White Papers on international development, including those produced since 1997, have committed the British Government to meeting the "reasonable needs" of the OTs as a first call on the aid budget.

The Department for International Development provides development aid to Pitcairn Island to meet its citizens' reasonable needs, ensuring maintenance of a range of basic public services (e.g. electricity, telecommunications) and provision of part-time public sector employment. Budget aid is also used to provide medical and educational services, as well as a shipping service that provides a necessary life-line in terms of freight and passenger services.

Tristan da Cunha: Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing for Tristan da Cunha as a result of the M. V. Oliva oil incident. [83204]

Mr Duncan: The responsibility to make good any damage caused to the environment of the Tristan da Cunha islands, and to compensate the Tristan community for any losses lies with the ship's owners and insurers. Department for International Development officials are working closely with colleagues from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in ensuring that the insurers and owners continue to meet this responsibility in full. We remain in close touch with the Tristan da Cunha Authorities to ensure that they have all the advice and support they need from across Government and elsewhere in the continuing negotiations with the insurers.

While the Government are quite clear that all costs resulting from this incident must be borne by the owners and insurers, a top-up to Tristan da Cunha's financial reserves was made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in March to protect the community against immediate and short term costs.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 30 November 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Attorney-General whether he has considered taking steps to make the Serious Fraud Office more accountable to Parliament. [83510]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers are already fully accountable to Parliament for the work of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), and the Director of the SFO ensures his department supports the Law Officers in fulfilling this duty as set out in the protocol between the Attorney-General and the prosecuting departments which was published in July 2009 and can be found on the following website:

http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/Publications/Pages/CriminalJusticeReports.aspx

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he is taking to increase transparency in the operation of the Serious Fraud Office. [83511]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers are committed to the Government's transparency agenda and have made it clear to all of the Law Officer's Departments (LODs) that they expect them to meet their obligations to make all relevant information available. The Attorney-General's Office works closely with the LODs to help them meet those requirements.

Serious Fraud Office: Operating Costs

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Attorney-General what the cost to the public purse was of the Serious Fraud Office in each of the last five years. [83508]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Total departmental spending[1]

	Outturn (£ million)
2006-07	42.870
2007-08	45.937
2008-09	52.801
2009-10	40.403
2010-11	36.423

[1] Total departmental spending is the sum of the resource budget and the capital budget less depreciation. The resource budget includes vote funding (funding for normal operational activities agreed with HMT), "blockbuster funding"—additional funding to support the costs of investigating/prosecuting large cases (discontinued after 2010-11) and one-off modernisation funding, £8,250 million in 2008-09 and £1,138 million in 2009-10 for a transformation programme for the SFO.

This information is routinely published in the annual SFO Resource Accounts which are available on the official documents website at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department has awarded to G4S since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [83923]

John Penrose: The Department has not awarded any contracts to G4S since May 2010.

National Football Museum

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of the closure of the National Football Museum in Preston. [83871]

Hugh Robertson: As an independent organisation, the specific cost of the relocation of the National Football Museum from Preston to Manchester is an operational matter for the museum. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provided the following grant funding to contribute to the operational costs of the museum from 2003-04 to 2010-11. No funding has been allocated for this spending period.

	Total (£ million)
2003-04	0.100
2004-05	0.100
2005-06	0.100
2006-07	0.100
2007-08	0.100
2008-09	0.103
2009-10	0.105
2010-11	0.105

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84218]

John Penrose: The Department uses postcodes for analytical and mapping purposes, including for statistical modelling and for the random selection of households (undertaken by the survey contractors) to be included in the sample for the Taking Part survey.

RMS Titanic: Anniversaries

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what funding his Development has allocated to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. [83684]

Mr Vaizey: This Department is aware of a number of initiatives to mark the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. A number of national and regional museums and heritage centres have plans to mark the occasion. These include the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, and the cities of Southampton, where the Titanic embarked, and Belfast, where she was built.

Southampton city council was awarded £4.6 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in March 2010 to create a new "Southampton Sea City Museum" which will include a permanent gallery on "Southampton's Titanic Story".

In 2008 the HLF awarded a grant of £50,000 to Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) for a project based at the Titanic's Dock and Pump-House in Belfast and also awarded a grant of £174,500 to National Museums Northern Ireland (Ulster Folk and Transport Museum) towards the development of its collection "Titanic: Built in Belfast". In July 2011 HLF awarded a grant of £3,250,000 to a project to restore the Nomadic—the Titanic's tender vessel—to restore and tell the story of the Nomadic and Belfast in 1911 and 1912.

In addition, the Phillips Memorial Park in Godalming, Surrey, the largest built memorial to a single Titanic victim, received confirmation of a full second round grant of over £335,000. This project is a joint scheme between HLF and the Big Lottery Fund's joint Parks for People programme and will restore the memorial in time for the centenary.

A 'Your Heritage' award from HLF is also being used to support a project in Maryport, exploring the impact of the sinking of the Titanic.

JUSTICE

Contracts: EU Law

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the UK of the European Commission proposals to harmonise contract law within the EU. [83714]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The proposal is for the creation of an optional sale of goods law which would be part of the national law of every member state. This optional law could be used by parties involved in the cross-border sale of goods and digital content as an alternative to national contract law. The Commission asserts that this is an alternative regime which would sit alongside, rather than change, national laws.

The Ministry of Justice intends to publish a UK-wide call for evidence soon to obtain evidence and views from businesses and consumers on the potential effect of the legislative proposal on the UK and also to inform the UK Government's position. We have also received advice from the Law Commission that we will use to inform our negotiating position.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has awarded to G4S since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [83922]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has awarded two contracts to G4S since May 2010. The estimated monetary value for the life of the two contracts is £828.3 million.

Contract	*Estimated total value for the life of the contract (net worth) (£ million)*	*Current estimated annual value of the contract (£ million)*	*Number of years*
HMP Birmingham (operate and maintain prison)	468.3	31.2	15
HMP Featherstone II (operate and maintain prison)	360.0	24.0	15

Legal Aid Scheme

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases of legal representation were provided through the Legal Aid Exceptional Funding Scheme in 2009-10; and what the cost to the public purse was of such representation. [83276]

(2) how many cases of legal assistance were provided for through the Legal Aid Exceptional Funding Scheme in 2009-10; and what the cost to the public purse was of such assistance. [83277]

Mr Djanogly: This information is held by the Legal Services Commission (LSC).

112 new cases were granted funding during 2009-10. There was a net spend during that year of £1.68 million, although payments do not necessarily relate to the new cases approved within that year.

These figures cover both representation and assistance approved under the Exceptional Funding scheme. These figures are not separated in the LSC's records as all payments are made under the same process. In practice these are cases funded for representation with occasional assistance funding included. All other assistance is provided through in-scope funding in the normal way.

Youth Justice

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will introduce measures for the Youth Justice Advisory Board to be given a specific responsibility to assess and report on the independence of the Youth Justice Division; and if he will make a statement; [83637]

(2) whether his proposed Youth Justice Division will undertake outreach work; [83638]

(3) if he will take steps to create a forum for feedback on the effectiveness of his proposed Youth Justice Advisory Board. [83639]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Division and Youth Justice Advisory Board were part of the Government's proposals for the new national governance of youth justice and were contingent on the abolition of the Youth Justice Board.

The Government have announced that they are no longer pursuing the abolition of the Youth Justice Board through the Public Bodies Bill. The Youth Justice Division and the Youth Justice Advisory Board will therefore not be established.

Youth Offending Teams: Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was of each youth offending team in each year between 1997-98 and 2010-11. [83096]

Mr Blunt: These figures were not collected prior to 2002-03. Details of figures from 2002-03 onwards are contained in the following table.

Youth offending teams (YOTs) from 2002-03 to 2009-10

Total

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Barking and Dagenham	1,647,604	2,260,525	2,374,576	3,200,676	2,248,632	2,411,888	2,843,877	2,618,901
Barnet	603,089	692,884	1,012,829	1,128,613	1,125,093	1,242,567	1,296,346	1,314,682
Barnsley	1,037,949	1,105,492	1,148,348	1,369,571	1,586,699	1,678,693	2,092,647	2,026,020
Bath and North East Somerset	460,046	622,517	588,272	646,708	743,120	1,073,167	821,763	926,814
Bedfordshire	1,745,621	2,083,954	1,957,701	2,218,843	2,419,135	2,533,993	2,674,410	3,015,838
Bexley	673,639	758,351	1,055,354	1,140,123	1,211,371	1,100,226	1,140,142	1,087,325
Birmingham	6,951,677	8,414,411	10,428,001	10,777,348	11,176,051	11,904,951	11,227,489	10,405,939
Blackburn with Darwen	1,272,070	1,490,291	2,001,984	1,909,852	1,936,552	1,630,567	2,327,584	2,178,654
Blackpool	1,262,651	2,356,005	1,954,343	2,120,965	1,894,135	1,611,535	1,801,334	1,807,901
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	1,872,950	2,066,903	1,713,958	2,243,444	2,026,743	2,789,369	2,399,273	2,385,825
Bolton	1,926,265	1,496,021	1,740,022	1,827,351	1,798,504	1,759,683	1,925,095	2,028,619
Bournemouth and Poole	999,532	1,213,504	1,373,277	1,239,684	1,323,397	1,334,591	1,347,589	1,508,341
Bracknell Forest	621,139	624,005	617,642	613,235	630,528	695,119	740,954	767,525
Bradford	3,326,424	3,969,527	4,320,093	4,589,717	4,744,329	4,658,310	4,897,171	4,737,770
Brent	1,227,216	1,243,348	1,482,522	1,684,928	1,858,605	2,316,084	2,252,245	3,229,746
Bridgend	666,283	698,192	688,059	827,357	898,037	943,298	1,011,191	960,643
Brighton and Hove	1,127,818	1,228,396	1,093,887	1,590,716	1,195,425	1,368,187	1,528,271	1,498,647
Bristol	2,454,267	2,611,054	2,683,555	3,347,345	3,864,400	4,331,089	4,149,838	4,185,672
Bromley	683,332	812,552	885,255	1,113,031	1,035,544	1,258,108	1,755,759	1,816,379
Buckinghamshire	1,371,715	1,687,041	1,684,457	1,740,875	2,183,090	2,236,525	2,424,254	2,226,579
Bury	974,486	1,001,485	1,166,663	1,317,608	1,904,233	2,097,280	1,665,333	1,669,963
Calderdale	1,437,686	1,339,462	1,944,670	2,240,398	2,522,582	1,939,707	2,047,557	1,981,805
Cambridgeshire	1,826,082	1,727,567	1,658,336	1,726,751	1,832,854	2,084,115	2,066,562	2,321,328
Camden	2,536,346	3,173,922	2,022,469	2,505,802	2,639,399	2,814,276	2,865,133	3,244,120
Cardiff	1,439,019	1,352,068	1,419,958	2,012,337	2,159,703	3,493,522	2,835,433	2,945,598
Carmarthenshire	759,420	842,780	992,925	1,079,266	1,319,050	1,316,676	1,495,055	1,662,035
Ceredigion[1]	0	0	0	590,367	689,650	743,841	747,317	801,196
Cheshire	1,745,376	1,915,629	1,850,897	2,151,153	2,673,825	3,183,461	2,881,112	3,285,473
Conwy and Denbighshire	716,939	1,097,024	1,248,217	1,073,300	1,208,085	1,146,792	1,221,352	1,279,170
Cornwall	1,329,442	2,277,737	1,478,011	1,550,054	1,870,500	2,021,943	2,181,114	2,376,722
Coventry	2,223,216	2,385,894	2,434,931	2,906,019	3,314,830	3,438,515	3,490,338	3,110,360
Croydon	2,071,014	2,412,822	2,546,031	3,169,688	3,565,038	3,455,445	3,802,833	3,547,809
Cumbria	1,768,569	1,971,543	2,194,969	2,464,441	2,457,172	2,706,513	2,951,979	3,107,085
Darlington	614,082	636,461	1,090,715	992,176	1,264,822	1,239,978	1,236,709	1,109,154
Derby	1,473,298	2,489,007	2,403,638	2,456,179	2,600,774	2,792,263	2,806,919	3,032,655
Derbyshire	2,174,794	2,303,881	2,230,740	2,335,057	2,595,522	2,877,029	3,305,483	4,233,870
Devon	2,179,168	2,235,739	2,110,770	2,572,066	2,717,288	3,790,536	3,650,090	3,308,729
Doncaster	1,640,972	1,680,340	1,875,715	2,440,389	2,601,031	2,815,236	2,971,561	2,949,866
Dorset	879,597	913,479	1,121,158	1,214,992	1,478,137	1,670,619	1,975,021	2,032,302
Dudley	1,783,131	1,855,289	1,909,749	2,018,480	2,193,460	2,404,303	2,501,574	2,576,355
Durham	3,362,078	5,327,063	5,076,576	5,619,658	5,016,778	5,301,366	5,290,140	5,443,976
Ealing	1,623,794	1,917,027	2,230,320	2,311,532	2,382,703	2,167,527	1,901,643	2,216,992
East Riding of Yorkshire	736,517	828,970	961,179	1,035,304	1,299,106	1,446,081	1,449,593	1,605,150
East Sussex	1,383,821	1,507,972	1,633,775	1,796,670	2,000,624	2,246,508	2,570,228	2,692,573
Enfield	937,313	1,339,585	1,051,709	1,323,330	2,016,844	2,158,429	2,198,743	2,771,552
Essex	2,550,052	3,068,729	3,375,710	3,683,098	4,022,627	4,156,126	4,343,840	5,691,710

Youth offending teams (YOTs) from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	Total							
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Flintshire	517,592	599,611	635,311	961,232	912,824	1,412,573	1,354,398	1,582,045
Gateshead	1,036,768	2,066,091	2,006,816	2,153,180	2,150,906	2,270,557	2,420,130	2,511,244
Gloucestershire	2,163,941	2,372,009	2,392,217	2,772,965	3,160,592	3,336,992	4,437,406	4,165,666
Greenwich	1,820,695	1,986,403	2,005,905	2,479,861	1,985,550	2,533,485	1,984,259	2,988,247
Gwynedd Môn	466,793	664,784	690,094	851,075	1,091,748	1,281,362	1,305,445	1,458,474
Hackney	2,394,104	2,516,207	2,965,794	3,314,503	3,438,746	4,427,302	4,253,351	4,206,313
Halton and Warrington	1,014,026	1,394,063	1,357,263	1,627,248	1,891,965	2,120,667	2,141,511	2,220,202
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,877,596	1,896,245	2,041,211	1,949,590	1,951,948	2,081,967	2,018,264	2,585,457
Haringey	1,412,988	1,971,367	2,231,372	2,615,388	2,902,726	3,417,389	3,154,659	3,536,738
Harrow	871,090	959,840	879,587	887,634	1,105,903	1,384,370	1,437,486	1,049,251
Hartlepool	977,814	971,230	1,028,113	1,173,700	1,361,320	1,434,397	1,474,033	1,425,452
Havering	644,130	760,006	996,078	1,034,600	1,083,475	1,299,150	1,297,003	1,382,691
Hertfordshire	2,692,884	2,866,190	4,323,466	4,046,056	4,286,660	4,359,912	4,356,437	4,598,524
Hillingdon	1,011,454	1,095,837	883,633	1,270,903	1,648,608	1,794,128	1,822,119	2,150,226
Hounslow	789,525	824,527	1,125,393	1,333,348	1,356,168	1,594,675	1,743,616	1,643,931
Islington	1,488,157	1,423,117	1,678,528	1,886,360	2,032,721	2,420,689	1,931,383	2,364,016
Kensington and Chelsea	809,112	933,355	1,203,388	1,581,496	1,507,812	1,734,316	1,745,106	2,006,337
Kent	5,333,404	5,643,858	5,984,054	6,467,839	7,065,902	7,986,424	7,771,024	7,361,466
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,499,117	1,691,858	1,900,984	2,225,052	2,309,850	2,602,458	2,668,233	2,696,154
Kingston-upon-Thames	649,021	813,897	782,004	773,993	912,584	968,476	1,011,074	1,016,900
Kirklees	1,947,235	2,163,749	2,663,509	2,997,990	3,103,081	3,349,319	3,286,320	3,516,755
Knowsley	1,844,071	1,581,591	1,552,336	2,724,890	3,028,912	2,671,169	2,560,705	2,491,479
Lambeth	2,402,016	2,482,286	3,082,276	2,949,428	3,143,593	3,221,857	3,544,901	3,540,421
Lancashire	4,944,399	5,460,204	5,291,053	5,659,557	6,437,066	7,036,906	6,641,602	6,634,707
Leeds	3,892,634	4,762,844	5,295,727	6,034,719	6,823,934	7,743,367	7,602,712	8,039,792
Leicester City	2,822,984	3,508,481	4,185,469	4,129,997	4,043,479	4,215,139	3,783,290	3,109,136
Leicestershire	1,578,061	1,600,354	1,995,500	2,170,166	2,454,884	2,823,328	3,037,455	3,096,212
Lewisham	1,642,114	2,011,844	1,780,092	2,293,544	2,385,481	2,500,981	3,857,436	2,175,249
Lincolnshire	2,012,195	2,874,345	3,030,179	2,657,977	3,010,301	3,420,313	3,353,315	3,510,837
Liverpool	3,596,043	3,256,802	4,658,566	5,533,532	5,687,181	6,025,001	5,948,641	7,047,228
Luton	1,469,433	1,889,663	1,754,591	2,105,015	2,149,417	2,741,148	2,161,833	2,156,947
Manchester	3,569,118	3,552,900	4,660,746	5,179,442	5,508,524	5,290,082	5,567,480	5,503,060
Medway	810,819	847,202	1,267,262	1,433,746	1,161,292	1,203,760	1,296,394	1,410,990
Merthyr Tydfil	570,526	572,229	571,662	680,515	701,324	702,962	692,276	739,913
Merton	590,936	817,095	1,057,893	898,285	881,457	934,209	886,309	1,176,035
Mid Wales[1]	692,458	928,064	1,029,001	0	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	892,558	1,070,290	1,375,060	1,726,552	1,647,734	1,579,211	1,701,416	1,659,347
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	908,573	1,000,755	978,297	1,077,914	1,193,948	1,708,917	1,497,696	1,669,433
Neath Port Talbot	1,717,158	1,836,759	2,100,221	2,396,390	2,377,723	1,632,335	1,752,176	2,049,707
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2,944,731	2,868,530	2,742,035	2,756,619	3,125,972	3,508,376	3,364,169	4,137,523
Newham	2,283,071	3,152,298	3,080,685	4,677,288	4,722,505	5,039,721	3,645,334	3,377,048
Newport	887,352	901,707	996,062	1,109,139	1,189,989	1,281,157	1,446,690	1,489,215
Norfolk	3,342,350	2,735,378	2,985,489	3,608,496	4,580,686	5,101,614	4,582,236	4,674,631
North East Lincolnshire	906,531	1,256,115	1,497,498	1,282,544	1,389,064	1,428,140	1,750,274	1,343,171
North Lincolnshire	661,097	1,019,630	1,272,631	1,291,451	1,418,016	1,469,278	1,441,116	1,122,550
North Somerset	473,863	751,855	770,844	928,908	821,423	1,003,921	1,168,798	1,249,366
North Tyneside	849,969	936,273	856,224	947,874	1,238,810	1,241,408	1,261,226	1,552,335
North Yorkshire	1,724,893	1,795,591	2,180,876	2,398,952	2,804,820	3,237,011	3,730,158	3,905,978
Northamptonshire	2,163,432	2,417,859	2,742,606	3,142,496	3,597,530	3,689,589	3,796,501	4,297,855
Northumberland	1,486,993	1,903,958	2,050,700	2,177,660	2,216,385	2,411,382	2,540,518	845,215
Nottingham	3,456,525	2,718,681	3,313,075	3,711,685	3,222,781	3,339,332	3,545,957	3,636,565

Youth offending teams (YOTs) from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	Total							
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Nottinghamshire	2,263,907	2,954,971	3,350,789	3,832,363	4,582,001	4,812,163	4,836,640	5,204,425
Oldham	1,280,181	1,799,307	3,023,564	3,262,142	2,928,398	2,267,623	2,376,584	1,788,778
Oxfordshire	2,326,597	2,967,608	3,062,524	3,318,569	3,659,342	3,592,809	3,809,474	4,290,090
Pembrokeshire	458,093	651,530	700,233	668,722	771,115	806,331	1,086,723	939,538
Peterborough	1,317,207	1,488,927	1,689,587	1,940,813	2,046,465	2,227,520	2,390,099	2,032,510
Plymouth	1,320,972	1,523,643	1,435,124	1,449,593	1,474,297	1,593,219	1,653,015	1,954,962
Powys[1]	0	0	0	745,397	978,336	971,507	1,188,847	1,168,466
Reading[2]	0	0	0	0	0	1,909,895	1,623,074	1,690,616
Reading and Wokingham[2]	1,240,953	1,399,966	1,879,587	2,090,837	2,341,030	0	0	0
Redbridge	1,227,229	1,645,712	2,103,262	2,199,587	2,480,592	2,460,388	2,706,075	2,974,894
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1,384,092	1,440,919	1,784,925	2,105,611	2,305,705	2,702,996	2,741,169	2,752,647
Richmond-upon-Thames	452,152	499,212	612,003	665,196	870,680	851,156	869,259	338,877
Rochdale	1,208,237	1,353,285	1,636,247	1,801,258	1,864,568	2,386,371	2,486,454	2,292,537
Rotherham	2,551,288	2,505,304	2,714,548	2,628,719	2,824,829	2,985,986	2,248,479	2,462,464
Salford	1,829,800	1,420,598	1,413,541	1,596,901	1,640,647	1,789,538	1,913,546	1,996,783
Sandwell	1,367,596	1,849,519	2,082,283	1,762,339	2,123,278	2,555,281	2,811,499	3,031,826
Sefton	1,655,460	1,601,808	1,501,792	1,850,397	1,984,120	2,106,197	2,229,276	2,181,897
Sheffield	2,760,057	2,420,161	2,330,780	3,354,652	3,650,712	4,432,846	5,392,169	6,622,108
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	1,218,073	1,461,619	1,765,645	1,732,268	1,747,881	1,847,828	1,971,783	2,081,348
Slough	1,167,021	885,938	1,026,267	1,076,269	1,051,149	1,176,369	1,274,148	1,280,039
Solihull	427,226	992,969	1,198,903	1,016,208	1,101,341	1,146,068	1,304,324	1,296,632
Somerset	1,991,206	2,139,635	2,368,911	2,582,543	2,862,704	3,027,060	2,773,796	2,795,027
South Gloucestershire	586,960	653,971	679,639	706,532	289,386	897,256	937,148	960,943
South Tees	2,404,920	2,944,877	3,085,799	3,888,737	4,495,986	4,124,894	3,358,495	3,602,911
South Tyneside	1,368,527	1,676,979	1,759,694	2,087,840	2,184,346	1,878,719	1,786,760	1,823,917
Southend-on-Sea	545,801	993,721	1,015,453	1,091,652	1,100,566	1,550,459	1,444,673	1,806,223
Southwark	2,727,868	3,285,001	5,343,718	5,740,246	5,721,371	5,853,431	6,725,652	5,948,675
St. Helens	1,015,204	1,182,957	941,448	1,461,201	1,948,534	2,121,155	1,675,255	1,963,718
Staffordshire	2,938,948	3,430,925	3,311,380	3,935,814	4,351,087	4,434,492	4,858,872	5,470,113
Stockport	1,408,383	1,282,254	1,130,513	1,153,425	1,435,870	1,641,510	1,879,779	1,950,675
Stockton-on-Tees	1,107,556	1,159,580	1,376,779	1,890,363	1,743,708	1,681,050	1,444,528	1,516,444
Stoke-on-Trent	1,876,786	2,238,764	2,419,795	2,921,493	3,079,298	3,653,493	3,341,264	3,194,566
Suffolk	2,689,424	2,892,319	3,238,424	3,372,287	3,511,798	4,226,458	4,235,647	4,939,786
Sunderland	3,513,107	3,628,465	3,875,338	4,288,883	4,448,678	4,993,696	4,892,468	4,741,479
Surrey	1,677,729	1,983,386	2,543,641	2,861,287	3,335,160	3,547,482	3,356,117	3,831,048
Sutton	543,060	701,916	719,891	999,496	1,183,768	1,347,471	1,186,617	1,049,990
Swansea	1,265,577	1,343,649	1,555,971	1,996,165	2,100,759	2,294,451	2,379,422	2,746,781
Swindon	818,402	858,453	817,651	820,422	924,530	1,081,585	1,217,396	1,181,003
Tameside	818,856	1,224,148	1,514,169	1,396,235	1,460,927	1,574,101	1,675,810	1,818,056
Thurrock	591,491	641,495	639,211	963,102	1,241,732	1,172,922	1,163,938	1,189,463
Torbay	713,646	817,198	851,661	941,352	938,268	1,079,478	1,189,739	1,123,491
Tower Hamlets and City of London	1,320,422	1,311,762	1,730,829	1,604,013	2,223,375	2,360,828	2,242,647	2,413,097
Trafford	3,066,030	3,189,851	1,975,767	2,166,308	2,391,910	2,675,970	3,248,156	3,646,770
Vale of Glamorgan	1,059,498	1,064,453	917,027	1,026,109	1,051,511	1,021,569	1,024,474	1,133,130
Wakefield	1,642,856	1,806,355	1,844,814	2,357,584	2,545,090	2,903,603	3,074,355	3,048,421
Walsall	1,372,383	1,419,504	1,606,345	2,033,614	1,938,386	2,043,184	2,357,927	3,509,519
Waltham Forest	1,203,636	1,444,175	1,620,156	1,661,971	1,687,007	2,217,762	1,130,575	2,262,997
Wandsworth	2,614,999	2,653,315	2,502,061	3,357,993	3,118,278	2,700,337	2,209,546	2,218,056
Warwickshire	1,606,424	1,793,353	2,023,842	2,316,936	2,345,845	2,398,916	2,643,721	2,625,775
Wessex	6,023,698	7,644,896	7,721,238	8,447,744	8,907,281	9,566,959	9,799,021	10,420,427
West Berkshire	474,428	558,827	608,054	730,497	870,599	1,031,891	1,110,799	1,115,840

Youth offending teams (YOTs) from 2002-03 to 2009-10

	Total							
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
West Sussex	435,045	2,237,952	2,335,899	2,480,116	2,731,344	2,748,652	2,488,639	2,299,534
Westminster	1,384,894	1,572,860	1,859,922	1,943,149	2,061,319	2,140,079	2,627,351	1,710,807
Wigan	1,482,894	1,810,641	1,780,402	2,149,493	2,254,376	2,665,715	2,697,777	2,803,899
Wiltshire	1,295,264	1,717,655	1,532,167	1,565,847	1,712,928	1,852,545	1,906,581	1,961,236
Windsor and Maidenhead	96,195	497,849	487,678	573,540	765,364	744,057	738,847	1,221,433
Wirral	2,557,528	1,994,640	2,958,499	2,741,200	2,734,795	2,760,746	3,037,584	3,159,084
Wokingham[2]	0	0	0	0	0	459,978	590,190	673,877
Wolverhampton	1,597,556	1,923,615	2,194,410	2,411,851	2,836,316	3,206,063	3,334,419	3,169,716
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	2,410,596	2,634,099	2,692,667	3,206,332	3,423,147	3,693,033	3,814,701	3,785,052
Wrexham	1,528,042	1,214,548	1,141,677	1,217,116	1,627,043	1,767,568	1,547,339	1,278,203
York	718,762	754,369	748,579	745,462	1,032,389	1,115,442	1,178,668	988,671
Total	252,602,591	288,349,682	313,546,056	350,939,089	375,514,610	405,276,408	410,121,095	423,314,693

[1] Mid Wales split into Ceredigion YOT and Powys YOT from April 2005.
[2] Reading and Wokingham split into Reading YOT and Wokingham YOT from April 2007.
Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.
2. These figures were not collected prior to 2002-03.
3. We are in the process of quality checking figures for 2010-11. They are due to be published in January 2012.
4. The data include the YJB's ring-fenced funding for Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programmes, prevention programmes, resettlement and after care services.
5. Other sources of funding such as the Single Regeneration Budget, European Funding and the Children's Fund are also included in the presented figures.
6. These figures may differ from published figures because they include the sources of funding mentioned above.

Youth Offending Teams: Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent posts there were in each youth offending team in each year between 1997-98 and 2010-11. [83114]

Mr Blunt: These figures were not collected prior to 2002-03. Details of figures from 2002-03 onwards are contained in the following table:

Number of full-time and part-time staff in YOTs from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	40	22	62	42	23	65	44	26	70
Barnet	20	19	39	22	16	38	18	9	27
Barnsley	38	26	64	39	23	62	41	22	63
Bath and North East Somerset	21	2	23	22	11	33	22	8	30
Bedfordshire	45	41	86	49	16	65	54	11	65
Bexley	18	5	23	17	6	23	16	7	23
Birmingham	245	134	379	285	137	422	286	94	380
Blackburn with Darwen	36	24	60	40	18	58	36	21	57
Blackpool	68	40	108	44	25	69	44	25	69
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	49	2	51	34	1	35	56	2	58
Bolton	51	2	53	51	2	53	44	5	49
Bournemouth and Poole	25	17	42	24	15	39	24	16	40
Bracknell Forest	13	5	18	11	7	18	17	5	22
Bradford	87	17	104	89	18	107	83	20	103
Brent	35	15	50	38	16	54	37	16	53
Bridgend	23	10	33	26	7	33	28	4	32
Brighton and Hove	21	11	32	27	13	40	25	12	37
Bristol	67	54	121	107	80	187	111	53	164
Bromley	19	13	32	20	6	26	37	2	39
Buckinghamshire	39	30	69	39	23	62	47	17	64

Number of full-time and part-time staff in YOTs from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Bury	33	10	43	30	5	35	31	9	40
Calderdale	47	10	57	45	14	59	40	12	52
Cambridgeshire	38	2	40	44	4	48	44	8	52
Camden	37	9	46	42	9	51	43	8	51
Cardiff	62	9	71	63	13	76	62	14	76
Carmarthenshire	20	11	31	19	15	34	23	19	42
Ceredigion	12	12	24	16	14	30	13	25	38
Cheshire	64	20	84	77	19	96	99	10	109
Conwy and Denbighshire	23	3	26	24	11	35	26	9	35
Cornwall	40	39	79	42	59	101	47	44	91
Coventry	78	33	111	85	26	111	97	28	125
Croydon	46	20	66	51	20	71	55	12	67
Cumbria	62	7	69	59	10	69	62	14	76
Darlington	26	5	31	35	9	44	31	11	42
Derby	58	31	89	47	5	52	45	25	70
Derbyshire	59	43	102	59	43	102	74	60	134
Devon	77	23	100	84	23	107	90	22	112
Doncaster	65	7	72	68	7	75	76	19	95
Dorset	36	10	46	36	10	46	41	28	69
Dudley	57	21	78	59	32	91	65	23	88
Durham	134	12	146	131	4	135	140	3	143
Ealing	29	19	48	32	15	47	41	12	53
East Riding of Yorkshire	22	27	49	28	22	50	26	15	41
East Sussex	43	8	51	46	24	70	57	15	72
Enfield	31	12	43	45	2	47	46	1	47
Essex	68	12	80	95	21	116	94	1	95
Flintshire	22	31	53	26	16	42	30	30	60
Gateshead	53	21	74	57	16	73	54	14	68
Gloucestershire	72	18	90	74	24	98	70	25	95
Greenwich	32	5	37	34	11	45	41	8	49
Gwynedd Mon	22	3	25	20	20	40	28	9	37
Hackney	41	4	45	51	6	57	68	10	78
Halton and Warrington	46	3	49	47	1	48	52	6	58
Hammersmith and Fulham	39	6	45	44	8	52	50	7	57
Haringey	47	84	131	52	48	100	62	13	75
Harrow	21	18	39	23	14	37	26	21	47
Hartlepool	35	12	47	33	13	46	44	14	58
Havering	23	9	32	22	25	47	26	17	43
Hertfordshire	89	15	104	90	16	106	104	37	141
Hillingdon	27	13	40	35	11	46	35	17	52
Hounslow	30	17	47	31	25	56	32	29	61
Islington	29	5	34	33	8	41	33	8	41
Kensington and Chelsea	26	4	30	29	8	37	31	4	35
Kent	162	35	197	162	35	197	145	41	186
Kingston-upon-Hull	39	36	75	51	23	74	52	21	73
Kingston-upon-Thames	9	7	16	10	4	14	13	5	18
Kirklees	69	16	85	72	16	88	71	22	93
Knowsley	49	21	70	44	21	65	50	17	67
Lambeth	51	1	52	63	1	64	61	11	72
Lancashire	153	24	177	161	40	201	164	38	202
Leeds	127	5	132	127	33	160	125	65	190
Leicester City	81	15	96	77	21	98	58	29	87
Leicestershire	68	2	70	72	7	79	89	13	102
Lewisham	49	2	51	46	2	48	48	3	51
Lincolnshire	70	39	109	61	30	91	75	53	128

Number of full-time and part-time staff in YOTs from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Liverpool	101	27	128	115	20	135	146	39	185
Luton	38	22	60	39	15	54	39	17	56
Manchester	109	6	115	113	7	120	106	6	112
Medway	24	10	34	30	14	44	33	12	45
Merthyr Tydfil	20	1	21	18	2	20	14	4	18
Merton	19	2	21	21	2	23	22	8	30
Milton Keynes	28	12	40	33	19	52	30	24	54
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	26	31	57	26	32	58	27	52	79
Neath Port Talbot	28	5	33	29	3	32	32	1	33
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	69	33	102	70	41	111	71	62	133
Newham	104	5	109	102	16	118	74	4	78
Newport	29	8	37	29	5	34	32	5	37
Norfolk	82	11	93	93	13	106	94	14	108
North East Lincolnshire	47	24	71	34	15	49	23	11	34
North Lincolnshire	22	15	37	26	19	45	34	19	53
North Somerset	36	6	42	22	9	31	24	5	29
North Tyneside	53	15	68	28	5	33	27	14	41
North Yorkshire	57	51	108	57	49	106	66	44	110
Northamptonshire	75	28	103	71	18	89	70	29	99
Northumberland	46	5	51	53	25	78	46	37	83
Nottingham	93	10	103	101	11	112	101	10	111
Nottinghamshire	93	23	116	99	37	136	88	28	116
Oldham	58	33	91	59	13	72	58	25	83
Oxfordshire	87	43	130	66	41	107	72	62	134
Pembrokeshire	16	9	25	15	8	23	12	13	25
Peterborough	37	36	73	49	35	84	42	36	78
Plymouth	34	8	42	39	10	49	42	8	50
Powys	12	12	24	17	2	19	19	9	28
Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	5	32
Redbridge	39	6	45	42	7	49	50	6	56
Rhondda Cynon Taff	55	5	60	58	13	71	61	11	72
Richmond-upon-Thames	16	20	36	12	14	26	12	12	24
Rochdale	56	22	78	57	10	67	58	14	72
Rotherham	43	5	48	43	5	48	44	3	47
Salford	43	2	45	55	4	59	42	4	46
Sandwell	37	23	60	51	21	72	59	17	76
Sefton	48	29	77	48	36	84	43	58	101
Sheffield	84	16	100	82	18	100	107	34	141
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	47	13	60	39	17	56	45	12	57
Slough	22	5	27	22	10	32	26	10	36
Solihull	28	4	32	29	8	37	30	7	37
Somerset	50	27	77	51	31	82	55	33	88
South Gloucestershire	15	5	20	17	7	24	16	11	27
South Tees	89	5	94	113	4	117	79	0	79
South Tyneside	45	36	81	45	36	81	45	38	83
Southend-on-Sea	116	11	127	40	2	42	43	1	44
Southwark	91	24	115	93	21	114	111	21	132
St Helens	47	23	70	47	23	70	54	22	76
Staffordshire	110	10	120	126	31	157	124	33	157
Stockport	42	11	53	33	0	33	43	16	59
Stockton-on-Tees	27	13	40	35	14	49	38	24	62
Stoke-on-Trent	64	13	77	64	21	85	71	19	90
Suffolk	93	19	112	88	24	112	92	14	106
Sunderland	96	50	146	95	73	168	99	93	192

Number of full-time and part-time staff in YOTs from 2005-06 to 2009-10

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Surrey	80	37	117	80	33	113	86	36	122
Sutton	19	2	21	21	3	24	20	7	27
Swansea	52	8	60	61	17	78	63	10	73
Swindon	26	8	34	29	6	35	32	9	41
Tameside	32	8	40	36	4	40	39	11	50
Thurrock	24	4	28	24	5	29	27	6	33
Torbay	19	10	29	18	13	31	22	10	32
Tower Hamlets and City of London	35	12	47	37	14	51	34	9	43
Trafford	35	4	39	46	20	66	61	26	87
Vale of Glamorgan	24	6	30	20	13	33	19	13	32
Wakefield	53	0	53	57	0	57	58	0	58
Walsall	51	3	54	51	10	61	61	30	91
Waltham Forest	38	0	38	38	2	40	42	5	47
Wandsworth	26	13	39	33	25	58	34	35	69
Warwickshire	46	39	85	53	33	86	60	32	92
Wessex	166	37	203	174	28	202	194	38	232
West Berkshire	15	9	24	14	9	23	21	12	33
West Sussex	64	33	97	63	44	107	69	47	116
Westminster	43	2	45	48	0	48	48	0	48
Wigan	55	15	70	72	10	82	80	18	98
Wiltshire	43	12	55	43	15	58	47	15	62
Windsor and Maidenhead	9	5	14	11	6	17	10	4	14
Wirral	59	13	72	62	24	86	65	21	86
Wokingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	5	13
Wolverhampton	52	28	80	64	4	68	61	2	63
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	66	89	155	71	68	139	71	54	125
Wrexham	28	9	37	32	7	39	28	16	44
York	22	12	34	22	12	34	22	13	35
Reading and Wokingham	29	6	35	28	4	32	—	—	—
Total England and Wales	7,865	2,687	10,552	8,182	2,767	10,949	8,575	3,009	11,584

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	43	0	43	39	13	52
Barnet	27	10	37	24	10	34
Barnsley	44	24	68	42	56	98
Bath and North East Somerset	23	7	30	16	16	32
Bedfordshire	55	39	94	55	23	78
Bexley	14	5	19	11	10	21
Birmingham	256	69	325	237	125	362
Blackburn with Darwen	44	10	54	44	24	68
Blackpool	31	7	38	34	11	45
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	57	4	61	52	3	55
Bolton	46	4	50	40	6	46
Bournemouth and Poole	25	13	38	26	15	41
Bracknell Forest	12	8	20	11	10	21
Bradford	83	20	103	111	13	124
Brent	41	2	43	48	5	53
Bridgend	29	17	46	28	14	42
Brighton and Hove	26	17	43	22	19	41

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Bristol	102	42	144	74	51	125
Bromley	29	10	39	39	4	43
Buckinghamshire	46	19	65	42	32	74
Bury	35	9	44	32	13	45
Calderdale	47	9	56	41	17	58
Cambridgeshire	30	23	53	19	51	70
Camden	40	13	53	50	11	61
Cardiff	66	15	81	67	26	93
Carmarthenshire	27	16	43	24	18	42
Ceredigion	18	15	33	17	13	30
Cheshire	75	19	94	64	30	94
Conwy and Denbighshire	27	9	36	31	7	38
Cornwall	42	28	70	46	26	72
Coventry	81	48	129	77	37	114
Croydon	55	21	76	54	25	79
Cumbria	56	17	73	53	27	80
Darlington	27	10	37	23	6	29
Derby	45	25	70	44	25	69
Derbyshire	74	60	134	65	67	132
Devon	82	24	106	63	61	124
Doncaster	86	7	93	68	10	78
Dorset	49	26	75	44	45	89
Dudley	71	15	86	58	15	73
Durham	127	12	139	109	22	131
Ealing	35	9	44	34	14	48
East Riding of Yorkshire	27	24	51	33	20	53
East Sussex	58	12	70	53	17	70
Enfield	41	2	43	46	6	52
Essex	89	13	102	101	16	117
Flintshire	34	26	60	27	32	59
Gateshead	56	12	68	52	15	67
Gloucestershire	83	17	100	71	24	95
Greenwich	40	9	49	35	15	50
Gwynedd Mon	28	28	56	30	21	51
Hackney	83	5	88	84	8	92
Halton and Warrington	46	13	59	36	17	53
Hammersmith and Fulham	45	6	51	31	13	44
Haringey	65	13	78	62	11	73
Harrow	29	20	49	26	18	44
Hartlepool	40	12	52	36	16	52
Havering	25	16	41	23	11	34
Hertfordshire	90	38	128	77	43	120
Hillingdon	37	14	51	41	24	65
Hounslow	34	32	66	27	34	61
Islington	41	2	43	39	5	44
Kensington and Chelsea	30	5	35	34	5	39
Kent	138	49	187	153	58	211
Kingston-upon-Hull	49	22	71	49	16	65
Kingston-upon-Thames	15	2	17	9	5	14
Kirklees	68	18	86	80	30	110
Knowsley	53	10	63	43	23	66
Lambeth	65	0	65	76	2	78
Lancashire	149	22	171	142	52	194
Leeds	161	0	161	134	35	169
Leicester City	89	28	117	87	32	119

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
Leicestershire	93	9	102	81	45	126
Lewisham	44	10	54	57	11	68
Lincolnshire	79	94	173	70	46	116
Liverpool	147	39	186	140	46	186
Luton	43	12	55	39	19	58
Manchester	91	3	94	120	7	127
Medway	38	12	50	34	15	49
Merthyr Tydfil	16	4	20	16	4	20
Merton	23	12	35	19	15	34
Milton Keynes	32	22	54	28	20	48
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	29	76	105	29	37	66
Neath Port Talbot	32	3	35	26	4	30
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	74	34	108	73	27	100
Newham	77	1	78	58	1	59
Newport	36	11	47	35	17	52
Norfolk	93	16	109	98	18	116
North East Lincolnshire	28	4	32	35	8	43
North Lincolnshire	30	17	47	25	7	32
North Somerset	30	9	39	32	11	43
North Tyneside	27	9	36	23	11	34
North Yorkshire	75	41	116	71	49	120
Northamptonshire	87	28	115	82	32	114
Northumberland	47	14	61	56	6	62
Nottingham	82	8	90	88	14	102
Nottinghamshire	90	28	118	115	46	161
Oldham	56	22	78	60	22	82
Oxfordshire	73	50	123	66	58	124
Pembrokeshire	20	10	30	19	9	28
Peterborough	42	23	65	38	32	70
Plymouth	33	10	43	29	8	37
Powys	22	9	31	17	17	34
Reading	21	5	26	20	7	27
Redbridge	50	6	56	39	23	62
Rhondda Cynon Taff	62	11	73	61	11	72
Richmond-upon-Thames	11	10	21	10	8	18
Rochdale	56	7	63	59	22	81
Rotherham	52	0	52	41	10	51
Salford	47	8	55	45	8	53
Sandwell	59	29	88	62	23	85
Sefton	48	20	68	42	28	70
Sheffield	112	57	169	120	37	157
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	44	11	55	51	12	63
Slough	20	9	29	20	14	34
Solihull	31	4	35	29	10	39
Somerset	47	21	68	35	36	71
South Gloucestershire	16	12	28	18	4	22
South Tees	79	0	79	85	43	128
South Tyneside	39	60	99	39	19	58
Southend-on-Sea	43	5	48	43	6	49
Southwark	100	20	120	107	3	110
St Helens	44	7	51	45	29	74
Staffordshire	129	25	154	112	27	139
Stockport	44	18	62	46	33	79
Stockton-on-Tees	33	19	52	27	20	47
Stoke-on-Trent	79	4	83	68	26	94

	2008-09			2009-10		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Suffolk	106	27	133	75	38	113
Sunderland	100	118	218	98	89	187
Surrey	84	32	116	81	49	130
Sutton	22	7	29	21	10	31
Swansea	68	9	77	71	8	79
Swindon	29	7	36	26	12	38
Tameside	39	10	49	31	14	45
Thurrock	18	1	19	18	7	25
Torbay	40	10	50	30	13	43
Tower Hamlets and City of London	46	22	68	56	22	78
Trafford	50	18	68	70	30	100
Vale of Glamorgan	19	8	27	21	13	34
Wakefield	57	0	57	48	8	56
Walsall	49	28	77	47	14	61
Waltham Forest	41	8	49	35	7	42
Wandsworth	32	24	56	24	30	54
Warwickshire	59	37	96	47	42	89
Wessex	254	45	299	194	44	238
West Berkshire	22	10	32	22	8	30
West Sussex	77	53	130	71	55	126
Westminster	40	4	44	39	4	43
Wigan	61	18	79	62	25	87
Wiltshire	49	9	58	42	20	62
Windsor and Maidenhead	11	5	16	12	9	21
Wirral	58	21	79	54	26	80
Wokingham	14	4	18	25	6	31
Wolverhampton	63	11	74	62	9	71
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	77	68	145	64	68	132
Wrexham	36	11	47	31	13	44
York	23	19	42	20	19	39
Reading and Wokingham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total England and Wales	8,635	2,879	11,514	8,215	3,483	11,698

Notes:
1. The data are presented as numbers of full-time and part-time staff, since full-time equivalent data is not collected. For all years except 2009-10, however, full-time figures include part-time strategic managers, operational managers and administration staff, since full-time and part-time figures for these categories were only collected from 2009-10. In all years, part-time figures are made up predominantly of part-time practitioners as well as sessional staff. Volunteers are excluded from the table entirely. Prior to 2005-06, analogous data were not collected. Data for 2010-11 is due to be published in the Annual Youth Justice Statistics 2010-11 in January 2012.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many dangerous dog incidents have been reported to the police in England and Wales since June 2010; [81040]

(2) how many dangerous dog incidents were reported to police in 2010-11. [81045]

Mr Paice: Records of dangerous dog incidents are not held centrally as such incidents are recorded by relevant police forces.

Departmental Fines

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2007; and at what cost. [74353]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not expect to pay such fines; these would be the responsibility of the person who committed the offence.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of her Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [82575]

Richard Benyon: Departmental records show that approximately 10 official photographs have been taken of Ministers and/or senior officials since May 2010.

These photographs have been used for a variety of internal and external communications.

The Department does not hold a central record of staff undertaking photography, and therefore cannot provide an accurate figure without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay: London

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the total monetary value of London weightings and London living allowances for staff in her Department. [74898]

Richard Benyon: The total monetary value of the higher London pay scales as of 1 July 2011, is £5,264,973 (based on annual salary).

There are also a small number of London pay allowances paid to staff, at a total monetary value of £11,400 per annum. These allowances have been abolished but remain payable to a small number of staff who retained eligibility to them on a reserved right basis.

The Department does not pay any form of London weighting or London living allowances to members of the senior civil service.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by her Department as of March 2011. [70923]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* At March 2011, there were no private finance initiatives in procurement directly by DEFRA.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts of a monetary value of *(a)* between £100,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,000 and £1 million, *(c)* between £1 million and £5 million, *(d)* between £5 million and £10 million, *(e)* between £10 million and £50 million, *(f)* between £50 million and £100 million, *(g)* between £100 million and £500 million, *(h)* between £500 million and £1 billion, *(i)* between £1 billion and £5 billion and *(j)* over £5 billion her Department and its predecessors have entered into with private suppliers in each year since 1990. [74208]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA was formed in 2001, information prior to this date can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The core Department had no central records of contract information kept until October 2009. Information in the following table for numbers of contracts prior to this date, relates to information on active contracts captured when this central recording started.

Core DEFRA

	(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*	*(d)*	*(e)*	*(f)*	*(g)*	*(h)*	*(i)*	*(j)*
1998	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	3	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
2005	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2006	11	5	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
2007	11	6	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
2008	23	7	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
2009	94	13	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
2010	53	5	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
2011	17	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many days on average her Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2010-11. [75014]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the average working days lost (AWDL) to sickness absence in 2010-11 for staff in each pay grade in DEFRA:

Grade	*AWDL*
AA	17.7
AO	8.3
EO	8.2
HEO	4.7
SEO	3.5
Grade 7	3.6
Grade 6	3.7
SCS	1.4
All grades	5.4

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure welfare in puppy farms. [80905]

Mr Paice: The Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, which amended and extended the provisions of the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991, provides protection for dogs used in breeding establishments. Under this legislation, any person who keeps a breeding establishment for dogs at any premises and carries on at those premises a business of breeding dogs for sale must obtain a licence from the local authority. Those people who are not in the business of breeding dogs for sale, so called "hobby breeders", and produce less than five litters in any period of 12 months do not need to obtain a licence.

The local authority has the discretion whether to grant a licence and, before doing so, must satisfy itself that the animals are provided with suitable accommodation, food, water and bedding material; are adequately exercised and visited at suitable intervals; and that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent and control the spread of diseases among dogs.

In addition to the specific law on dog breeding, there is also the Animal Welfare Act, which places on those who own or are responsible for animals a duty to ensure their animals' welfare. This includes owners and keepers of dog breeding establishments.

Under the Pet Animals Act 1951, local authorities must decide whether or not to grant a licence for a particular establishment to sell animals, where this is part of a business. In deciding whether to grant a licence, local authorities shall have regard to the need for securing: (a) the animals' accommodation; (b) availability of adequate food and drink; and ensuring that (c) any mammals will not be sold at too early an age; (d) that reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the spread of disease; and (e) appropriate steps are taken in case of fire. These considerations are set out in section 1(3) of the 1951 Act and are broadly similar to the sort of requirements that all owners and keepers (including pet shop owners) must follow in order to comply with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (the "2006 Act").

The model standards that local authorities use to help them decide whether a pet shop should be granted a licence under the 1951 Act were recently updated.

Food: Waste

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the Waste Review, June 2011, what progress she has made towards a new responsibility deal with the hospitality and service sectors to reduce food waste. [82526]

Richard Benyon: The June 2011 Review of Waste Policy in England committed the Government to develop a new Responsibility Deal with businesses in the hospitality and food service sectors to reduce food waste and ensure that unavoidable food waste is managed sustainably.

We are working with industry, devolved Administrations and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to produce this deal, which will act on both food and packaging waste.

On 14 September 2011, we held a successful stakeholder event to gain industry views. Similar events were held in Cardiff and Edinburgh. On 22 November 2011, we circulated a discussion paper outlining the proposed targets and structure of the deal, which is available on WRAP'S website:

www.wrap.org.uk

We have asked for industry input by 11 January 2012. We will use this to produce the final deal, which we hope to launch in spring 2012.

Marine Conservation Zones

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has plans to secure marine management control out to 200 nautical miles. [83325]

Richard Benyon: The UK Government exercise management of UK waters out to 200 nautical miles except where their power to do this is limited by international or European law. The European Union has exclusive competence in relation to the conservation of marine biological resources under the common fisheries policy. It has shared competence with the UK in relation to the environment (so the UK can take measures if the EU has not done so).

In negotiations on the reform of the common fisheries policy, the UK is seeking to enable member states to manage marine resources more effectively, through better integration of fisheries management with other marine policies.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has specific plans for the revenues accruing from the disposal of shares held by UK Financial Investments in Lloyds Banking Group and RBS Group. [83367]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) is responsible for managing the Government's investments in Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) on an arm's length and commercial basis; and for developing and executing a strategy for disposing of the investments in an orderly and active way.

UKFI continues to look at the full range of alternatives for disposing of the investments.

The Government have no specific plans for the proceeds of any disposal which may arise.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what options are being considered for the disposal of shares held by UK Financial Investments in Lloyds Banking Group and RBS Group. [83368]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments is responsible for managing the Government's investments in Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) on an arm's length and commercial basis; and for developing and executing a strategy for disposing of the investments in an orderly and active way.

UKFI continues to look at the full range of alternatives for disposing of the investments.

Boilers: Government Assistance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has undertaken on the effect on *(a)* the manufacturing industry and *(b)* levels of unemployment of introducing a boiler scrappage scheme. [83669]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Energy Saving Trust published an evaluation of the boiler scrappage scheme. This is available at:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/england/Publications2/Energy-efficiency/English-Boiler-Scheme-Scrappage-evaluation-report

HM Treasury has not undertaken separate research on its economic impact.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83772]

Miss Chloe Smith: Liquefied eggs are not used by the Treasury's catering contractor.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83773]

Miss Chloe Smith: For the period April 2010 to March 2011, HM Treasury's catering subcontractor sourced 71% of its food supplies from UK food producers.

Economic Growth: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Northern Ireland Executive, *(c)* Northern Ireland representatives and *(d)* Northern Ireland trade unions on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. [83273]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor visited Northern Ireland on 17 June 2011 and discussed the Government's consultation on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy with members of the Northern Ireland Executive and the business community.

Over the process of consultation on 'Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy', I have had a series of meetings with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), and the Northern Ireland Executive. In addition I have chaired consultation meetings in London and Belfast which were attended by Northern Ireland business and trade union representatives, among others.

Excise Duties: Alcohol Drinks

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the extent of alcohol duty evasion. [83857]

Miss Chloe Smith: Diversion of alcohol without payment of excise duty is the prevalent form of alcohol fraud. Estimates of tax losses are produced by HMRC annually for spirits and beer, the latest of which have been published in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2011".

This publication is available in the House of Commons Library and online at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mtg-2011.pdf

Excise Duties: Fuels

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal steps his Department is taking to help offset the rising cost of fuel for people living in rural areas. [83501]

Miss Chloe Smith: Given the current high cost of fuel, to support motorists and businesses, the Autumn Statement announced that the 3.02 ppl fuel duty increase that was due to take effect on 1 January 2012 will be deferred to 1 August 2012, and the inflation increase that was planned for 1 August 2012, currently expected to be worth 1.92 ppl, will be cancelled. This will mean that there will only be one RPI increase next year. This is on top of the support that was announced at Budget 2011 that included a 1 ppl cut in fuel duty and the introduction of a fair fuel stabiliser to replace the previous Government's fuel duty escalator.

As of 1 April 2012 average pump prices could be approximately 10 ppl lower than if the Government had implemented the previous Government's fuel duty escalator in both 2011-12 and in 2012-13.

The Government recently secured final EU clearance for the introduction of a 5 ppl rural fuel rebate pilot scheme in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Northern Isles, islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly that will come into force from 1 March 2012.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letters of 22 April 2011, 7 June 2011, 9 August 2011, 29 August 2011, 13 September 2011 and 20 October 2011 concerning his constituents Mr and Mrs Scott and Equitable Life. [83841]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Gentleman.

Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 702W, on Revenue and Customs: Government Procurement Card, (1) what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 15 May Restaurants and Bars 702.73 in 2007; [76503]

(2) what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 17 May Restaurants and Bars 560.00 in 2007; [76504]

(3) what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 16 July Restaurants and Bars 575.35 in 2007; [76508]

(4) what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 5 October Restaurants and Bars 514.15 in 2007; [76511]

(5) what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 18 December Restaurants and Bars 559.60 in 2007; [76513]

(6) what the *(a)* name of the supplier and *(b)* purpose and function was of the entry 12 November Restaurants and Bars 509.36 in 2008. [76524]

Mr Gauke: For HMRC to provide all the information requested would mean extracting the information manually, which would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold. However, from high level information held we can provide the following:

Posting date	*Merchant category group*	*Amount (£)*	*Response*
15 May 2007	Restaurant and Bars	[1]702.73	(a) Bedford and Strand
		[1]—	(b) French and UK Missing Trader Intra Community (MTIC) Co-ordination Group; reciprocal hospitality
17 May 2007	Restaurant and Bars	560.00	Would exceed disproportionate cost threshold—cardholder no longer in HMRC
16 July 2007	Restaurant and Bars	[1]575.35	(a) Redacted—operationally sensitive
		[1]—	(b) Fiscal Crime Liaison—reciprocal hospitality following a container profiling exercise in respect of smuggled cigarettes destined for UK Market
5 October 2007	Restaurant and Bars	[1]514.15	(a) The Quilon Restaurant
		[1]—	(b) High level delegation—international hospitality
18 December 2007	Restaurants and Bars	[1]559.60	(a) Redacted—operationally sensitive
		[1]—	(b) Accommodation/B&B for operational investigation team
12 November 2008	Restaurants and Bars	[1]509.36	(a) Redacted—operationally sensitive
		[1]—	(b) The UK hosted a meeting followed by a dinner to develop strategic engagement on the recovery of assets. International partners in attendance included senior representatives from the UAE Central Bank, the Head of Anti Money Laundering in the Dubai police, his deputy and other officers, officials from the Public Prosecutors Office in the Netherlands, together with the Dutch liaison officer, British embassy officials and senior HMRC officials.

[1] Suggests brace.

Taxation: Overseas Trade

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue his Department received from trade with countries outside the EU in each of the last five financial years. [83500]

Mr Gauke: Revenue from trade with countries outside the EU is remitted to HM Revenue and Customs under value added tax on imports, customs duty, and excise duties, including alcohol duty, tobacco products duty, and hydrocarbon oils duty.

Annual receipts from import VAT since the financial year 1989-90 are published on a monthly basis in table 2 of the Value Added Tax Statistical Bulletin, which is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullvat

Annual receipts from customs duties since the financial year 2001-02 are published on a monthly basis in the Tax and NICs receipts: statistics table, which is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/menu.htm

Information on revenue from trade with countries outside the EU is not available for excise duties including alcohol duty, tobacco products duty, and hydrocarbon oils duty.

VAT: Registration

Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* VAT-registered and *(b)* non-VAT-registered businesses in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland are (A) incorporated and (B) unincorporated. [R] [83943]

Mr Gauke: The estimated number of live VAT-registered traders at the end of 2008-09 that were incorporated and unincorporated, by region, is as follows:

	Incorporated	*Unincorporated*
England	875,000	595,000
Wales	35,000	50,000
Scotland	70,000	65,000
Northern Ireland	20,000	55,000

The estimated number of non-VAT-registered traders that are incorporated and unincorporated, by region in 2008-09, is as follows:

	Incorporated	*Unincorporated*
England	420,000	1,995,000
Wales	10,000	115,000
Scotland	15,000	175,000
Northern Ireland	5,000	70,000

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Virgin Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit the British Overseas Territory of British Virgin Islands. [83205]

Mr Bellingham: For security and operational reasons, we do not comment on or announce visits significantly in advance.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83732]

Mr Lidington: The small amount of liquid egg supplied to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK is bought through our catering contract in accordance with Government Buying Standards and is sourced from hens from an enriched cage system.

It would incur disproportionate cost to source this information from our network of posts and our public bodies as this information is held locally.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83734]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK has a contracted catering company (Compass). Compass currently meets the majority of, and is committed to meeting the remaining new, Government buying standards for food and catering. It is working with its suppliers to achieve these and is contractually required to meet any new EU or UK legislation relating to the provision of catering services.

It would incur disproportionate costs to source this information from our network of 260 posts and our public bodies as this information is held locally.

European Union

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has sought the advice of external counsel to the lawfulness of the Government exercising a Justice and Home Affairs opt-in under the treaty on the functioning of the European Union in the absence of the citation of a Title V legal base. [83715]

Mr Lidington: The Government seek relevant legal advice whenever developing policy and that advice, including from external counsel, is taken into account, as appropriate, as part of the overall policy decision-making process. Legal advice obtained by Government Departments is confidential. It is not Government policy to disclose whether legal advice has been sought on individual matters or the source of such advice.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the UK's overseas missions play in preventing human trafficking in source countries. [83492]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK's missions, with staff from Departments across Whitehall, including the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Department for International Development (DfID) and the UK Border Agency, implement the Government's human trafficking strategy overseas. They work with foreign Governments in source and transit countries to build their capacity to disrupt human trafficking, for example by working with investigators and prosecutors to increase prosecutions for human trafficking offences. They contribute to the UK and international efforts to combat trafficking by ensuring that UK interests are effectively represented bilaterally and in multilateral forums, including the EU and the UN. Our missions also address the root causes of human trafficking through DfID's work to alleviate poverty overseas.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disclosure of Information

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that important policy announcements are made to Parliament before the media. [83945]

Chris Grayling: All policy announcements made by the Department for Work and Pensions are made to Parliament in line with parliamentary procedure.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will instigate an inquiry into the announcement of the details on the youth contract by the media prior to the announcement of such details to Parliament. [83946]

Chris Grayling: The details of the youth contract were released by the Department for Work and Pensions via a written ministerial statement on the morning of 25 November 2011. *Official Report*, columns 42-44WS.

Subsequent to this statement being tabled, the Department placed a press release on its website.

The Department will not be instigating an inquiry into this announcement.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2011, on the youth contract, if he will publish the media grid in relation to the launch of the youth contract, including the details of information provided to the media prior to the issue of the statement. [83947]

Chris Grayling: The details of the youth contract were released by the Department for Work and Pensions via a written ministerial statement on the morning of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 42-44WS.

Subsequent to this statement being tabled, the Department placed a press release on its website.

Social Exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and (b) his officials have had with the Department of Health on a co-ordinated approach towards people experiencing social exclusion due to health problems. [82087]

Maria Miller: The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and composed of Ministers from across relevant Government Departments, is focused on co-ordinating policy on poverty, equality and social justice.

The Minister of State for Public Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), is a member of the Committee, and Department for Health officials sit on the Officials' Group that supports it. The Committee and Officials' Group meet on a monthly basis.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Minister for Women and Equalities on a co-ordinated approach towards people experiencing social exclusion due to discrimination. [82088]

Maria Miller: The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), and composed of Ministers from across relevant Government Departments, is focused on co-ordinating policy on poverty, equality and social justice.

The Minister for Women and Equalities, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), is a member of the Committee, and her officials sit on the Officials' Group that supports it. The Committee and Officials' Group meet on a monthly basis.

WALES

Carbon Emissions

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with energy-intensive businesses in Wales on carbon floor pricing. [83954]

Mrs Gillan: I have had a number of meetings on this issue with businesses in Wales, including Tata Steel, Toyota and Airbus. In March I visited Tata Steel in Port Talbot with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), to hear at first hand the company's concerns about carbon floor pricing.

It is important that we strike the right balance between reducing our carbon footprint and maintaining a competitive UK economy. I therefore welcome yesterday's announcement to provide up to £100 million over the spending review period to mitigate the impacts of the carbon floor on electricity costs to businesses that are electricity intensive and operate in internationally competitive markets from April 2013.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the effect of carbon floor pricing on energy-intensive businesses in Wales. [83955]

Mrs Gillan: Yesterday we announced support to enable energy-intensive industries to remain internationally competitive and adjust to the transition to a low carbon economy. We will provide up to £100 million over the spending review period to mitigate the impacts of the carbon floor on electricity costs to businesses that are electricity intensive and operate in internationally competitive markets from April 2013.

Legal Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which organisations that have received funding from her Department have brought legal proceedings against her Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether her Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83897]

Mrs Gillan: None.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which services her Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84224]

Mr David Jones: None. The Wales Office does not deliver services directly to the public and obtains its corporate and support services through the Ministry of Justice.

Newport, Gwent

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times she has visited Newport since May 2010. [83956]

Mrs Gillan: Ministers have undertaken official engagements in Newport on seven occasions since May 2010.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84215]

Mr David Jones: No.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Shared Future

9. **Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on a strategy for a shared future in Northern Ireland. [82813]

Mr Swire: We welcome the commitments made in the Executive's draft Programme for Government to finalise the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy, build a united community and improve community relations. We will continue to discuss progress in this area with Northern Ireland Ministers where appropriate.

Legacy

10. **Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on measures to deal with the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [82814]

Mr Paterson: The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), and I have been meeting a range of political parties and interest groups to discuss the issue of dealing with the past. So far we have not found consensus. I intend to meet with political parties in Northern Ireland again in order to seek their views on how consensus can be found.

Fuel Poverty

12. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on fuel poverty in Northern Ireland. [82816]

Mr Swire: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Members for Stockton North (Alex Cunningham), for Blaenau Gwent (Nick Smith) and for Scunthorpe (Nic Dakin).

Short Money

13. **Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the House of Commons Commission regarding the provision of Short money and other equivalent financial support for political parties in Northern Ireland. [82817]

Mr Paterson: I have had no discussions with the House of Commons Commission in relation to this issue.

Domestic Aviation

14. **Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with BMI and International Airlines Group, on the London Heathrow to Belfast City air route. [82818]

Mr Paterson: I met Mr Willie Walsh, the chief executive of International Airlines Group on 16 November 2011 to discuss the opportunities that Northern Ireland airports can offer airlines and the needs of Northern Ireland business and leisure passengers.

Foreign Investment in UK

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the US Administration on inward investment in Northern Ireland. [82805]

Mr Paterson: I have had regular discussions on inward investment with representatives of the US Administration, most recently at meetings with the State Department in October.

The lead responsibility for attracting inward investment lies with the Northern Ireland Executive but we co-operate closely in support of their efforts.

HEALTH

Abortion

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason abortion is not going to be left as a matter for the discretion of clinical commissioning groups. [83861]

Anne Milton: The Department's publication 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward' (July 2011) stated that local authorities would be responsible for commissioning comprehensive sexual health services.

Abortion: Counselling

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on requiring the provision of pregnancy counselling by private abortion providers and their subsidiaries. [83860]

Anne Milton: All independent and private sector clinics performing abortions must be approved by the Secretary of State for Health. Approval is conditional on complying with a set of requirements, 'Procedures for the Approval of Independent Sector Places'. The procedures state that:

"a person trained and experienced in counselling in this field must be available to attend clinics/hospitals if required. Counselling must be offered to women who request it or who appear to need help in deciding on the management of pregnancy or who have difficulty in coping emotionally".

The issue of abortion counselling was discussed in Parliament on 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 362-85, and a commitment was made that the Department would develop proposals and consult on counselling options for all women considering abortion both within the independent sector and the national health service. The consultation will look at how to develop an offer of counselling that is impartial and supportive.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of *(a)* 65, *(b)* 75 and *(c)* 85 years were admitted to accident and emergency centres in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [83685]

Mr Simon Burns: Patients are not admitted to accident and emergency (A&E) centres, though they may be admitted to other hospital departments following an attendance at an A&E department. Statistics for admissions to A&E are therefore not available.

Statistics are available for attendances at A&E departments, though not for the exact age ranges requested, and have only been published since 2007-08. The following table represents the most relevant and up-to-date statistics available:

A&E attendances

	Year		
Age group	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
60 to 69	886,748	1,035,865	1,186,933
70 to 79	842,406	983,427	114,954
80 to 89	720,805	865,588	991,054
90 to 99	185,830	214,734	256,618
100+	7,150	9,377	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Brain Cancer: Health Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of adults with primary brain tumours who will be enrolled in randomised, controlled clinical trials as part of their therapy by 2014. [83552]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimates are made of the future proportion of patients recruited to randomised controlled trials (RCTs) in cancer, by cancer site. In 2010-11, the equivalent of 19.8% of new incident cancer cases were recruited into studies hosted by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Cancer Research Network (NCRN), representing a fivefold increase in recruitment in the decade since the network was established. In the same year, 194 patients were recruited to RCTs in brain cancer hosted by the NCRN.

Council for Health and Regulatory Excellence: Standards

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to measure the performance and outcomes of the Council for Health and Regulatory Excellence. [83941]

Anne Milton: The Department holds quarterly accountability meetings with the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence to monitor the performance of the organisation and to ensure that the council is fulfilling its statutory functions as set out in legislation.

In addition, the Department reviews the Council's annual reports and accounts, which are laid before Parliament. The Department also reviews the Council's annual performance review on the effectiveness of the regulators in protecting the public and promoting confidence in health professionals, which is also laid before Parliament.

Advisory Services

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has been involved in the cross-Government review of advice funding. [83843]

Paul Burstow: The Government are committed to ensuring that people continue to have access to good quality free advice in their communities and, in connection with this, will be carrying out a review of free advice services, beginning in November 2011 and ending in early 2012.

The review, together with a new £16.8 million central Government fund to help not-for-profit free advice services in England, was announced by the Minister for Civil Society, the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd), on 21 November 2011.

The cross-Government review, to be led by the Cabinet Office, will look at the funding environment for these services, likely levels of demand, and how the Government can play a positive role. Although the focus of the review will be on debt, welfare benefits, housing and employment advice, these are all determinants of health and therefore the Department is keen to be involved in the review.

Ministerial Video Recordings

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of his message on Hospedia patient entertainment systems; and how much ministerial time was required for its preparation. [83485]

Mr Simon Burns: There was no cost to the public purse. The filming was carried out on a constituency day.

Drugs

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons he decided not to proceed with the earlier access to medicines scheme proposed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency; and if he will make a statement; [83692]

(2) for what reasons the earlier access to medicines working group was disbanded; [83693]

(3) what steps he is taking to increase earlier access to unlicensed medicines via *(a)* clinical trials and *(b)* named patient programmes; [83694]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the efficacy of the regulatory framework for accessing unlicensed medicines. [83695]

Mr Simon Burns: The earlier access to medicines scheme was developed by a working group established by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in 2009. The working group was disbanded in 2010 when the framework for an earlier access scheme had been agreed. A decision was taken by Ministers in early 2011 not to take the scheme forward to public consultation at that time because of other significant changes taking place within the national health service, including the introduction of the Cancer Drugs Fund in April 2011.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) makes it possible for patients and health professionals across England to participate in relevant clinical trials, including trials of unlicensed medicines. Investment by the Department of Health in the NIHR CRN has increased from £157.5 million in 2008-09 to £300.9 million in 2010-11.

The NIHR has worked with partners to improve the cost-effectiveness of the United Kingdom as an environment for clinical trials, including through use of model agreements and costing templates. The NIHR also manages the UK Clinical Trials Gateway, an online resource providing information about trials running in the UK. Phase 2 of the Gateway was launched in March 2011, and Phase 3 will be released in 2012.

The UK has long made use of the derogation in Article 5 (1) of European Directive 2001/83/EC, which permits member states to put in place national arrangements allowing an authorised health care professional to commission the manufacture and importation of an unlicensed medicine to meet the special needs of an individual patient under his direct personal responsibility. It is therefore possible under existing legislation for doctors and certain other prescribers in the UK to access unlicensed medicines to meet the clinical needs of individual patients. The MHRA is currently reviewing the operation of these national arrangements.

Fluoride: Hampshire

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date he expects *(a)* Southampton city council and *(b)* New Forest district council to take over responsibility from the South Central strategic health authority for deciding whether fluoride should be added to drinking water in their areas; [82660]

(2) what his policy is on the appropriateness of the decision of the South Central strategic health authority to proceed with the fluoridation of drinking water in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* part of the New Forest East constituency whilst (i) Southampton city council and (ii) New Forest district council remain opposed to it. [82664]

Anne Milton: South Central strategic health authority (SHA) has complied with the current legislation, which was in force in 2008 when the SHA conducted the consultation on the fluoridation scheme. Under regulation 5 of the Water Fluoridation (Consultation) (England) Regulations 2005, SHAs have to determine the outcome of a consultation "having regard to the extent of support for the proposal and the cogency of the arguments advanced ...".

The Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament provides for responsibility for consultations on fluoridation to transfer to local authorities. The Bill includes powers to make new regulations which will include the criteria which local authorities should apply in determining when consultations on the continuance of existing fluoridation schemes should be conducted. We will be consulting on the content of these regulations before they are laid before Parliament.

Hospital Beds

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reasons for delayed hospital discharge. [83212]

Paul Burstow: The information shown in the following table provides an assessment of the reasons for delayed hospital discharge. Based on the latest information, about 61% of delayed transfers in October are attributable to the national health service and 32% to social care, with the remaining 7% being attributable to both in October 2011.

No one should be made to stay in hospital longer than necessary. The NHS and social care must work together to ensure people have the support they need on leaving hospital. The new Clinical Commissioning Groups will bring together general practitioners, specialist doctors and nurses to shape the best joined-up local care for patients, helping to avoid unnecessary delays.

The Department has allocated additional funding to help people return to their homes after a spell in hospital—by 2012-13 this will be £300 million per year. This money will help people to leave hospital more quickly and get settled back at home with the support they need.

Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by reason, England—England level data

		Number of patients with a DTOC at midnight on the last Thursday of the month			*Number of delayed days during the reporting period*		
Type of care	*Reason for Delay*	*NHS*	*Social care*	*Both*	*NHS*	*Social care*	*Both*
Acute	—	1,712	478	152	46,837	13,223	4,249
Non-acute	—	908	811	135	26,009	24,376	3,970
Acute	(A) Awaiting completion of assessment	252	108	87	7,277	2,807	2,574
	(B) Awaiting public funding	68	26	5	1,602	925	238
	(C) Awaiting further non-acute (including PCT and mental health) NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc.)	650	n/a	n/a	18,513	n/a	n/a
	(Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	134	87	13	3,282	2,638	338

Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by reason, England—England level data

Type of care	Reason for Delay	Number of patients with a DTOC at midnight on the last Thursday of the month			Number of delayed days during the reporting period		
		NHS	Social care	Both	NHS	Social care	Both
	(Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	65	86	n/a	1,823	2,612	n/a
	(E) Awaiting care package in own home	59	149	41	1,696	3,597	885
	(F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	72	8	6	1,657	164	214
	(G) Patient or family choice	343	11	n/a	9,112	375	n/a
	(H) Disputes	38	3	n/a	1,038	105	n/a
	(I) Housing–patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	31	n/a	n/a	837	n/a	n/a
Non-acute	(A) Awaiting completion of assessment	126	144	38	3,392	3,673	1,141
	(B) Awaiting public funding	30	84	26	854	2,689	835
	(C) Awaiting further non-acute (including PCT and mental health) NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc.)	125	n/a	n/a	3,725	n/a	n/a
	(Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	87	126	32	2,651	3,844	843
	(Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	92	229	n/a	2,851	6,667	n/a
	(E) Awaiting care package in own home	33	151	28	945	5,118	960
	(F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	30	12	11	929	534	191
	(G) Patient or family choice	224	49	n/a	5,841	1,406	NA
	(H) Disputes	32	16	n/a	947	445	n/a
	(I) Housing–patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	129	n/a	n/a	3,874	n/a	n/a

Type of care	Reason for delay	Number of patients with a DTOC at midnight on the last Thursday of the month	Number of delayed days during the reporting period
Acute	—	2,342	64,309
Non-acute	—	1,854	54,355
Total	—	4,196	118,664

Notes: Summary:
Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by who the delay is attributable to (NHS, social care or both) and by the reasons for the delay.
Period: October 2011.
Source: Unify2 data collection—MSitDT.

Mental Health Services

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adult mental health diversion schemes there are in each police authority area. [83708]

Paul Burstow: This information is not currently collected by the Department. The National Liaison and Diversion Programme is currently working with its regional partners to conduct a mapping exercise to identify the coverage and extent of service provision throughout England.

Multiple Sclerosis: Health Services

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to respond to the National Audit of Services for People with Multiple Sclerosis 2011; and what plans he has to improve *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* access to specialised services and treatment. [83707]

Paul Burstow: Responsibility for commissioning, and providing services, to meet the needs of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) lies with primary care trusts.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a clinical guideline for MS. The guideline provides comprehensive evidence-based information on the benefits and limitations of the various methods of diagnosing, treating and caring for people with MS. This helps health professionals and patients decide on the most appropriate treatment.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board will handle the future commissioning of specialised services. This will ensure consistency in planning and funding of specialised services for the benefit of patients with rare conditions.

NHS: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 602W, on clinical commissioning groups, which primary care trusts forecast an aggregate surplus; and what the surplus is for each such trust. [83363]

Mr Simon Burns: At quarter 1 of 2011-12, there were 148 primary care trusts forecasting an aggregate surplus between them of £517 million. The breakdown of this forecast surplus is shown in the following table:

Primary care trust	*2011-12 quarter 1 forecast surplus (£000)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	2,726
Barking and Dagenham PCT	2,200
Barnsley PCT	3,000
Bassetlaw PCT	1,700
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	2,685
Bedfordshire PCT	500
Berkshire East PCT	200
Berkshire West PCT	1,566
Bexley NHS Care Trust PCT	2,245
Birmingham East and North PCT	0
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching Care Trust Plus PCT	1,372
Blackpool PCT	1,399
Bolton PCT	1,000
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	5,356
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	8,300
Brent Teaching PCT	11,602
Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	4,615
Bristol PCT	3,955
Bromley PCT	5,993
Buckinghamshire PCT	100
Bury PCT	251
Calderdale PCT	3,600
Cambridgeshire PCT	0
Camden PCT	22,804
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	3,444
Central Lancashire PCT	3,653
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	7,117
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	8,562
County Durham PCT	1,000
Coventry Teaching PCT	5,800
Croydon PCT	8,301
Cumbria Teaching PCT	4,146
Darlington PCT	300
Derby City PCT	2,974
Derbyshire County PCT	8,000
Devon PCT	3,500
Doncaster PCT	2,700
Dorset PCT	6,133
Dudley PCT	1,000
Ealing PCT	6,105
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	3,324
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5,200
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5,480
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	9,000
Gateshead PCT	500
Gloucestershire PCT	8,685
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,000
Greenwich Teaching PCT	4,612
Halton and St.Helens PCT	500
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5,421
Hampshire PCT	0
Harrow PCT	0
Hartlepool PCT	100
Hastings and Rother PCT	3,353
Havering PCT	0
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5,000
Herefordshire PCT	250
Hertfordshire PCT	0
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	2,000
Hillingdon PCT	0
Hounslow PCT	4,110
Hull Teaching PCT	3,200
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	2,461
Islington PCT	18,652
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5,527
Kingston PCT	3,959
Kirklees PCT	8,300
Knowsley PCT	1,619
Lambeth PCT	6,605
Leeds PCT	25,200
Leicester City PCT	3,640
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	6,223
Lewisham PCT	5,375
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	9,543
Liverpool PCT	9,217
Luton Teaching PCT	0
Manchester PCT	1,000
Medway PCT	4,495
Mid Essex PCT	1,000
Middlesbrough PCT	600
Milton Keynes PCT	100
Newcastle PCT	250
Newham PCT	9,738
Norfolk PCT	1,000
North East Essex PCT	1,000
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus PCT	1,800
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	2,200
North Lincolnshire PCT	2,000
North Somerset PCT	1,063
North Staffordshire PCT	250
North Tyneside PCT	500
North Yorkshire and York PCT	0
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	7,017

Primary care trust	2011-12 quarter 1 forecast surplus (£000)
Northumberland Care PCT	250
Nottingham City PCT	3,400
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	3,333
Oldham PCT	2,015
Oxfordshire PCT	2,184
Peterborough PCT	0
Plymouth Teaching PCT	2,165
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,656
Redbridge PCT	2,000
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	150
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	4,199
Rotherham PCT	2,200
Salford PCT	2,260
Sandwell PCT	1,000
Sefton PCT	2,548
Sheffield PCT	500
Shropshire County PCT	1,000
Solihull PCT	0
Somerset PCT	7,965
South Birmingham PCT	1,000
South East Essex PCT	850
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,397
South Staffordshire PCT	750
South Tyneside PCT	200
South West Essex PCT	0
Southampton City PCT	1,943
Southwark PCT	5,857
Stockport PCT	667
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	400
Stoke on Trent PCT	2,000
Suffolk PCT	6,100
Sunderland Teaching PCT	300
Surrey PCT	1,000
Sutton and Merton PCT	3,240
Swindon PCT	2,945
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,000
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,000
Torbay Care PCT	2,494
Tower Hamlets PCT	8,000
Trafford PCT	1,800
Wakefield District PCT	3,100
Walsall Teaching PCT	729
Waltham Forest PCT	0
Wandsworth PCT	12,322
Warrington PCT	1,543
Warwickshire PCT	200
West Essex PCT	400
West Kent PCT	1,000
West Sussex PCT	12,800
Western Cheshire PCT	1,975
Westminster PCT	12,577
Wiltshire PCT	6,460
Wirral PCT	2,000
Wolverhampton City PCT	15,008
Worcestershire PCT	3,000
Total	516,855

NHS: Manpower

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors, *(c)* other clinical staff and *(d)* managers were employed by the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [83181]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of qualified nurses, doctors, other professionally qualified clinical staff and managers employed by the national health service in England in each of the last 10 years are shown in the following table:

England at 30 September

Full-time equivalents

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All doctors	90,638	92,910	97,415	102,344	109,483	114,470	119,359	121,264	125,629	132,683	132,879
Total qualified nursing staff	266,987	277,334	291,285	304,892	315,440	321,537	322,062	322,182	329,372	336,007	335,357
Other clinical staff	103,736	107,340	113,375	118,267	125,172	130,632	130,216	133,642	138,948	145,545	148,997
Of which:											
Total qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[1]	89,632	93,085	98,397	102,912	108,585	113,214	114,492	117,107	122,059	128,331	131,311
Of which:											

England at 30 September

Full-time equivalents

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Qualified Allied Health Professions	44,594	46,284	48,151	50,478	53,311	55,133	55,711	57,065	59,455	61,865	62,801
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	45,038	46,801	50,245	52,434	55,274	58,082	58,782	60,042	62,603	66,466	68,510
Qualified ambulance staff[1]	14,104	14,255	14,978	15,355	16,587	17,417	15,723	16,535	16,889	17,214	17,686
Managers and senior managers	24,253	26,285	30,914	33,810	36,007	37,549	35,041	34,955	37,937	42,509	40,094

[1] In 2006 ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre.

NHS: Private Patients

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether permitting the use of private patient financial payments towards the cost of NHS medical device treatments whilst undergoing NHS medical care would require primary legislation; and if he will make a statement; [83489]

(2) what legal advice he has received on whether patients wishing to privately purchase non-NHS funded medical device treatments are permitted to continue their treatment under the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [83490]

(3) whether he has considered issuing new NHS legal guidance on whether patients wishing to privately purchase non-NHS funded medical device treatments are permitted to continue their treatment under the NHS. [83491]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Health Service Act 2006 makes clear that NHS services must be provided free of charge except where charges are provided for in legislation. There are powers to introduce charges through regulations, but the Government have committed not to introduce any new charges this Parliament.

The legislation relating to charging in the NHS was made clear in Professor Sir Mike Richards' report 'Improving access to medicines for NHS patients' which was commissioned by the previous Administration and published in November 2008 following a period of public consultation. The report can be found at the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089927

In response to the consultation, and to clarify current legislation, the Departments revised 'Guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care', which was published in March 2009, gave several case studies on how this could work in practice, covering drug interventions, as well as non-drug interventions. This guidance establishes that, where a patient opts to pay for private care, their entitlement to NHS services remains and may not be withdrawn. This includes the principle that privately-funded and NHS-funded care should be kept as clearly separate as possible, to ensure that NHS funding is not used to subsidise private care and that NHS patients are not charged for their treatment, which would breach NHS principles and legislation. The guidance also recognises that in exceptional cases there may be overriding concerns of patient safety that mean private and NHS care cannot be provided separately. The guidance can be found at the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/DH_096427

Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

This Government have decided to maintain the position recommended by Professor Sir Mike Richards, and we have no current plans to review the existing guidance on how the NHS is allowed to provide private care.

NHS: Procurement

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that commissioners are aware of their legal obligation to fund treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [83364]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Health Service Constitution sets out patients' right to drugs and treatments which have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and which their doctors consider are appropriate for them.

This right is underpinned by a statutory funding direction that requires NHS organisations to fund health care interventions recommended in NICE technology appraisals within three months of publication of final guidance.

NHS: Telephone Services

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of instances where NHS hospitals have charged patients more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number since 21 December 2010. [83875]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no estimate of the number of instances where NHS hospitals have charged patients more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number since 21 December 2010.

The Department issued guidance and Directions to national health service bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers which charge the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the national health service. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the Directions and guidance.

Sex: Health Services

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the development of documentation on his Department's sexual health policy and the contraceptive needs of all women; and if he will make a statement. [84258]

Anne Milton: The Department has received a number of representations about the sexual health policy document. The document will take a life course approach and will consider the sexual health needs, including contraception needs, of all people and particularly those who are most vulnerable. The document will be published in spring 2012.

Social Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely extent of *(a)* over and *(b)* under-spending in community services providers for each primary care trust area in England for 2011-12. [83320]

Mr Simon Burns: At quarter one of 2011-12, all care national health service trusts were forecasting a surplus.

The aggregate forecast surplus for all care NHS trusts, at quarter one of 2011-12, was £22 million.

The breakdown of the forecast surplus for all the care NHS trusts is shown in the following table.

Care NHS trust	*£000* *2011-12 Quarter 1 forecast surplus/(operating deficit)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Community Healthcare NHS Trust	1,666
Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust	2,500
Cambridgeshire Community, Services NHS Trust	668
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust	2,775
Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust	23
Kent Community NHS Trust	1,306
Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust	3,451
Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust	1,000
Sussex Community NHS Trust	1,889
The Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust	1,140
The Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust	1,639
The Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust	683
The Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust	1,071
The Solent NHS Trust	1,860
The Wirral Community NHS Trust	704
Total	22,375

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on levels of alcohol-related crime in East Lancashire for each of the last three years. [83934]

James Brokenshire: From the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office it is not possible to determine the number of offences which were alcohol-related.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) has information on alcohol-related violence at a national level. However, the sample size of the BCS is not large enough to provide robust estimates for these types of crimes in East Lancashire.

Animal Experiments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 166-8W, on animal experiments, how much time the Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate devoted *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent inspector to providing advice on (i) preliminary project licence applications, (ii) project licence applications and (iii) project licence amendments. [83720]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not record the information requested, only the number of formal licence applications. Typically inspectors devote about one third of their time to project licence applications, both advising applicants and assessing applications in order to advise the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right Friend the hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May).

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 166-68W, on animal experiments, how many preliminary project licence applications were not proceeded with directly due to

Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate advice that a formal application would be refused and could not be amended to allow approval in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [83810]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not record the information requested, only the number of formal licence applications. Typically, an inspector will meet with an applicant at an early stage in the preparation of their application. If it is clear at that stage, or any subsequent stage, that an application does not fulfil the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 then the Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate will advise the applicant. Applicants can ask for a second opinion and this is always provided. They normally either withdraw their application on the basis of this advice, or significantly amend it to make it more acceptable.

On very rare occasions they may decide to press on with their application in spite of the advice of inspectors, in which case they may appeal under Section 12 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 once the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has informed them of her intention to not authorise the application.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 166-68W, on animal experiments, how many preliminary project licence applications *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time equivalent inspector, the Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate provided initial advice on in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [83811]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not record the information requested, only the number of formal licence applications. Numbers of formal project licence applications assessed by inspectors *(a)* in total and *(b)* per full-time inspector are as follows:

(i) 2008: 695; 31.03

(ii) 2009: 541; 23.99

(iii) 2010: 515; 23.33.

Crime: Retail Trade

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expected cost of retail crime to *(a)* businesses, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* the police has been in each of the last five years. [83034]

James Brokenshire: There are currently no year-on-year estimates of the costs of retail crime to businesses, local authorities or the police.

The Home Office published estimates of the costs of crime against retail and manufacturing premises for 1994 and for 2002-03 in:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors146.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3705.pdf

In addition, the Retail Crime Survey, compiled annually by the British Retail Consortium, estimates the overall cost of retail crime to retailers but does not address costs to other parties. Results for 2010 are available at:

http://www.brc.org.uk/brc_show_document.asp?id=4189&moid=7233

Criminal Records: Databases

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times UK authorities have accessed the European Criminal Records Information System in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [81579]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* UK authorities cannot access the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) because it has not yet been implemented. When implemented ECRIS will not be a database of the criminal records of EU nationals but will instead be a secure, standardised and computerised exchange system which allows individual member states to exchange criminal conviction information in a uniform, electronic and easily computer translatable way.

ECRIS is due to be implemented by all member states in April 2012.

Organised Crime: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the level of gang activity in Coventry. [79336]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 9 November 2011]:* The Home Secretary has not made an assessment of the level of gang activity in Coventry. This is an operational matter for the West Midlands police and other local partners. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is currently conducting an exercise to map gangs and gang violence in selected forces across the country to provide for the first time a national picture based on a single definition and approach.

Communications: Improper Use

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place following complaints made by the recipients of unwelcome, nuisance or obscene telephone calls and text messages in each of the last five years. [83700]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences involving "Improper use of electronic communications network" under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003, in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice court proceedings database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify from these centrally held data whether a prosecution has been made following a complaint from a recipient of unwelcome telephone calls or text messages.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Communications Act 2003, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2]

		2006	2007	2008[3]	2009	2010
Communications Act 2003, s.127	Sending or causing sending of grossly offensive/ indecent/ obscene/ menacing or false message/ matter by electronic communications network	550	680	872	1,126	1,511

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Theft

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female victims there were in each age group and of each ethnicity for recorded offences involving theft from the person in England and Wales in the last 10 years. [82186]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available centrally. The recorded crime figures returned to the Home Office are based on whole counts of offences. From these it is not possible to identify the age, sex or ethnicity of victims of "theft from the person".

Theft: Churches

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of theft or vandalism relating to churches were reported to the police in the last year for which figures are available. [83868]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to identify offences relating to churches from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Metal Theft

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse from metal theft over the last 12 months. [83221]

James Brokenshire: Information on the extent of metal theft and its costs are not collated centrally. The most recent studies estimate the cost of metal theft to the UK at between £220 million and £260 million per year (Deloitte, 2011) and £777 million (Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2010.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with Ministers from (i) the Department for Transport and (ii) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on metal theft since May 2010. [83259]

James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers have had a number of discussions with Ministers from other Departments to consider what approach should be taken to tackle metal theft, including the Department for Transport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers in her Department have received oral briefings from the National Metal Theft Crime Unit; and when such briefings were given. [83260]

James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers have not received any briefings from the disbanded National Metal Theft Crime Unit. They have received numerous briefings from the Association of Chief Police Officers and the British Transport Police, which jointly operated the unit.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with HM Revenue and Customs on metal theft. [83261]

James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers have had discussions with Ministers from other Government Departments to consider a range of options to tackle metal theft, including HM Treasury. Discussions have also been held between Home Office and HM Revenue and Customs officials on this topic.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails he has received on the number of helicopters deployed in Afghanistan in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [82972]

Nick Harvey: For the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011, three letters from hon. Members on behalf of their constituents and three letters from members of the public about helicopter numbers were received. In addition, two letters from hon. Members were received raising general concerns their constituents had about equipment provision, the replies to which included reference to the increases to in-theatre helicopter provision that have been made.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the financial support available to *(a)* sea cadets, *(b)* army cadets, *(c)* air cadets and *(d)* combined cadet forces. [83939]

Mr Robathan: The cadet forces sponsored by the Ministry of Defence make a unique contribution to national life. We are committed to provide support to our sponsored cadet forces, and it was announced as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review that the cadet forces are to be sustained. The youth engagement review was tasked with determining the Defence requirement to engage with young people and how it can most cost-effectively be delivered. The review is due to provide its final recommendations shortly.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider providing further support to sea cadets by offering them insurance provided as part of his Department's central provision. [83940]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence self insures its core business activities and bears the risk of any common law compensation claims arising for loss or injury resulting from negligence on the part of the sponsored cadet forces.

While undertaking authorised cadet activities, the cadets and cadet force adult volunteers are covered by the Ministry of Defence's self-insurance arrangements.

Armed Forces: Education

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average level of academic qualification attainment is of recruits *(a)* enlisting at and *(b)* graduating from the (i) Army Foundation College Harrogate and (ii) Army Technical Foundation College Winchester. [83412]

Nick Harvey: The information is not available in the format requested.

Recruits at entry to the Army Foundation College Harrogate (AFC(H)) and the Army Technical College Winchester (ATFC(W)) hold a range of academic qualifications, depending on their chosen trade, with the majority holding at least one GCSE (or equivalent) on enlistment. The Army also requires all candidates to undertake the Basic Skills Initial Assessment (BSA) on initial application to the AFC(H) and the ATFC(W) in order to establish their level of literacy and numeracy. Candidates must also pass the English speaking and listening test at Level 1 or above.

All recruits training at the AFC(H) undertake vocational qualifications. All soldiers are enrolled on a Level 2 Apprenticeship for IT Users which consists of the Level 2 iTQ Diploma for IT Users along with Functional Skills (FS) in literacy and numeracy at Level 1. All those who achieve Level 1 FS in literacy and numeracy during the programme have the additional opportunity to achieve those skills at Level 2.

All recruits at the ATFC(W) undertake functional skills in either numeracy or literacy, along with basic military training, to provide the academic foundation they will require in order to succeed at their chosen trades in phase 2 training.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum academic educational requirement is for recruits to pass out of phase one training at the *(a)* Army Foundation College Harrogate and *(b)* Army Technical Foundation College Winchester. [83413]

Nick Harvey: The educational requirement that recruits at the Army Foundation College Harrogate and the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester must attain in order to pass out of Phase 1 training is Level 1 in literacy and numeracy, at least at GCSE Grade G.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what nationally recognised *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* AS-level, *(c)* A-level, *(d)* BTEC, *(e)* HNC, *(f)* HND and *(g)* NVQ qualifications were studied by recruits at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester; and how many recruits achieved each such qualification in the latest period for which figures are available. [83414]

Nick Harvey: Recruits at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester (ATFC(W)) do not undertake GCSE, AS-Level, A-Level, BTEC, HNC, HND or NVQ qualifications.

The purpose of phase 1 education at the ATFC(W) is to set in place the academic foundation that the recruits will require in order to succeed at their chosen apprenticeships in phase 2.

The nationally recognised qualification that is studied and attained by recruits at the ATFC(W) is in functional skills in either numeracy or literacy. The number of recruits who passed the numeracy and literacy tests since September 2008 is shown in the following table:

	Number of recruits passed numeracy test	*Number of recruits passed literacy test*
September 2008 to March 2009	119	113
March 2009 to September 2009	296	306
September 2009 to March 2010	298	298
March 2010 to September 2010	105	121
March 2011 to October 2011	37	44

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what nationally recognised NVQ qualifications were studied by recruits at the Army Foundation College Harrogate; and how many recruits achieved each such qualification in the latest period for which figures are available. [83415]

Nick Harvey: All recruits training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate undertake vocational qualifications. All soldiers are enrolled on a Level 2 Apprenticeship for IT Users which consists of the Level 2 iTQ Diploma for IT Users along with Functional Skills (FS) in literacy and numeracy at Level 1. All those who achieve Level 1 FS in literacy and numeracy during the programme have the additional opportunity to achieve those skills at Level 2.

The number of junior soldiers achieving each qualification graduating from the last five intakes on the following dates are as follows:

Qualification	August 2009	December 2009	August 2010	December 2010	August 2011
Apprenticeship framework					
IT User L2 NVQ (iTQ)	703	394	639	330	536
Literacy Level 1	700	394	639	329	521
Numeracy Level 1	701	393	639	330	456
All parts of the apprenticeship achieved	700	393	639	329	456
Key Skills Level 2					
Literacy Level 2	608	339	563	279	281
Numeracy Level 2	584	326	558	288	262

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost was of recruitment per recruit for the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [83403]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave on 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 549-50W. The Ministry of Defence recently undertook a project to ascertain the full cost of regular and reserve recruiting and selection in 2009-10. This showed that the cost of all recruiting activities and support to recruiting was some £232 million. This can be broken down across the services as follows:

	Cost (£ million)	Intake 2009-10	Per recruit (£000)
Navy	41	4,150	10
Army	139	14,180	10
RAF	51	3,470	15

Figures have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

While the figures can be used to derive an average cost per recruit, as shown above, variations in trade groups, entry requirements and the whole recruitment process combined with the many other differences between the services means there is no such thing as an 'average' recruit or 'average cost' per recruit. Intake figures include re-entrants and intake from the reserves as well as directly trained entrants. Depending upon service and trade group, specialist assessment may be necessary. For example, potential pilots are required to undergo a significantly longer and more rigorous medical assessment than most other applicants.

Armed Forces: Termination of Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel will have been made redundant *(a)* compulsorily and *(b)* voluntarily from the (i) Army, (ii) Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force by 2015. [83350]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 29W, to the hon. Member for Strangford (Jim Shannon).

Armed Forces: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people applied for a place at Sandhurst Academy in each of the last five years; and how many such people were rejected. [82973]

Nick Harvey: The following table provides the number of Army Officer applicants who were invited to attend the three and a half day Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) and those who were successful

Financial year	Those that having applied to join the Army and were invited to attend AOSB	Those that were successful at AOSB
2011-12 to 31 October 2011	1,527	499
2010-11	1,649	822
2009-10	1,861	860
2008-09	1,482	816
2007-08	1,068	608

Those who are found unsuccessful at any stage of the officer recruitment process will be given feedback on where they have not met the required standard. Those who attend AOSB and are unsuccessful are rarely rejected outright. Their application will usually remain open, should they at some point decide to re-apply.

These figures do not include: serving regular soldiers or serving Gurkha soldiers applying to become officers, Territorial Army applicants or professionally qualified officer applicants (doctors, lawyers, etc.).

Armed Forces: Wills

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department provides to members of the armed forces based in Scotland on the drawing up of wills; and whether family members are able to be both beneficiary and executor. [83952]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) operates a system where service personnel are given the opportunity to complete a will and store it securely, free of charge. Commanding officers are instructed to ensure that all personnel entitled to make a will are urged to do so and that time is set aside in the unit programme for completion or amendment of the will by the individual. The importance of drawing up a will is emphasised during phase one training. It is made clear where legal advice can be sought either within or outside of the services.

The services also issue a will form (MOD form 106) with detailed instructions to facilitate the process. The form provides a simple, legal template for use by any service personnel regardless of service, rank, marital status or age. However, personnel are not obliged to use the MOD form and can make alternative private arrangements for drawing up a will. Throughout the year, service units are required to publish notices on routine orders reminding individuals of the importance of possessing an up-to-date will.

Since March 2011, the recording and processing of will information has been enhanced on the joint personnel administration system, giving greater assurance to the accuracy of will information held. The services' will form is currently being reviewed to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

I can confirm that under Scottish law an individual may be both the beneficiary and executor of a family member's will.

Harrier Aircraft: Sales

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the monetary value was of the sale of the *(a)* Harrier squadrons to the US Government and *(b)* spare parts of the Harrier fleet; [83240]

(2) to which departmental budget the revenue arising from the sale of the *(a)* Harrier squadrons and *(b)* Harriers' spare parts will be allocated. [83241]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* As I announced in the House on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 485-86, the value of the sale of the final 72 Harrier aircraft frames and associated spare parts, which will be used as a major source of spares to support the US Marine Corps Harrier AV-8B fleet, is $180 million (around £110 million). The sale takes the total estimated receipts and savings to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to around £1 billion.

As agreed with HM Treasury as part of the spending review process, the revenue from the sale of Harrier assets will be retained by the MOD and reinvested by the Department in key priorities as part of the Defence budget, including the state of the art Carrier Varriant of the Joint Strike Fighter.

HMS Ark Royal

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what defence-related restrictions he plans to apply when deciding whether or not to sell the Ark Royal to the Chinese Government; what information his Department holds on the benefit derived by the Chinese navy from its reverse-engineering of a previously purchased aircraft carrier; what assessment his Department has made of the purposes to which the Chinese Government intend to put the Ark Royal if their bid for the vessel is successful; and if he will make it his policy not to sell the Ark Royal to China. [83386]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* There is no intention to sell HMS Ark Royal to the Chinese or any other Government. HMS Ark Royal is being disposed of by commercial tendering to the most appropriate bidder, either for use in a non-military capacity or for recycling. Work to evaluate a number of bids is under way but no decisions have yet been made.

Maritime Zones: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has made to patrol the maritime zones of British Overseas Territories to monitor and deter illegal activities. [83149]

Nick Harvey: The UK provides maritime assets for defence of its Overseas Territories as detailed in the following table. As part of their secondary duties, maritime assets will assist local authorities in monitoring and deterring illegal activity.

British Overseas Territories	*Maritime tasking and visits*
Anguilla, Montserrat, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands	Atlantic Patrol Task (north) provides a rotational presence throughout the year, operating around the islands.
Gibraltar	Permanent presence of 2x patrol boats P2000. RN vessels visit regularly on transit to deployments east of Suez, Atlantic Patrol Task (south) and standing NATO maritime commitments.
Sovereign Base Areas Akrotiri and Dhekelia	RN vessels stop regularly on return from deployments East of Suez and other deployments and exercises.
British Indian Ocean Territory	Visits are on an opportunity basis, usually by ships deploying to the far east.
British Antarctic Territory	Annual deployment by ice patrol ship, with the British Antarctic Survey Team in the austral summer.
Falkland Islands	Permanent presence of an offshore patrol vessel and Atlantic Patrol Task (south).
St Helena dependencies, Tristan da Cunha	On an opportunity basis as part of Atlantic Patrol Task (south).
Ascension Island	Staging post for ships deploying to Atlantic Patrol Task (south).
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	The ice patrol ship routinely visits South Georgia during the austral summer. Additionally on an opportunity basis as part of Atlantic Patrol Task (south).
Pitcairn Islands	No routine visits; visits are on an opportunity basis.

Military Aircraft

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fighter planes and bombers are available for use by the Royal Air Force. [83218]

Peter Luff: The number of combat aircraft in service with the RAF is shown in the following table:

Aircraft type	*In-service fleet numbers*	*Forward fleet*
Tornado	136	93
Typhoon	83	55

In-service aircraft includes those undergoing planned depth maintenance but excludes those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. The forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable or short-term unserviceable and can be recalled at short notice.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* RAF and *(c)* Navy helicopters are based in (i) the UK and (ii) Germany. [82967]

Nick Harvey: The total number of Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy helicopters based in the United Kingdom and Germany, as at 31 October 2011, was as follows:

	Total
UK:	
Army	169
Royal Air Force	130
Royal Navy	154
Total UK	453
Germany:	
Army	8
Total Germany	8

A proportion of these helicopters will be deployed outside of the UK and Germany on operations and exercises.

The figures provided are for all helicopters within the Department's in-service fleet including those held at front line units, in depth maintenance and repair, undergoing modification, trials aircraft and storage. Contractor owned fleets are not shown.

Military Decorations

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to publish the review of the rules governing the awarding of medals. [83938]

Mr Robathan: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 368W, to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon).

Navy: Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a Royal Navy ship last visited Pitcairn Island *(a)* to patrol UK waters and *(b)* in any other capacity. [83148]

Nick Harvey: Due to the remoteness of the Pitcairn Islands, any Royal Navy ship visiting requires the support of a dedicated Royal Fleet Auxiliary supply ship. HMS Sutherland accompanied by RFA Bayleaf visited in September 2000.

Piracy

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on his Department's at sea counter-piracy work of the proposed reductions in his Department's budget. [82319]

Nick Harvey: Since 2008, the Ministry of Defence has contributed to EU, NATO and Combined Maritime Forces counter-piracy operations. The proposed reductions in budget have so far had limited impact on our at sea counter-piracy work. Operation Atalanta continues to be run from Northwood under UK command, and we contribute vessels to NATO's Operation Ocean Shield and provide the Deputy Operation Commander to the US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). UK officials also play a leading role within the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, which seeks to deliver a coherent international response to this difficult problem.

RAF Cottesmore and Kinloss

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army and *(b)* civilian personnel will be stationed at (i) RAF Kinloss and (ii) RAF Cottesmore in each year between 2011 and 2015. [83355]

Mr Robathan: The Army announced a package of preliminary moves on 10 November which stated that some 930 service personnel and their families would move into Kinloss from summer 2012 and some 1,070 into Cottesmore between the summer of 2012 and 2013. At this time the civilian personnel requirements are still being worked through in terms of the numbers, specialisms and grades. There will be full trade union consultation as the situation becomes clearer.

Further work is currently ongoing into the future size and structure of the Army, and this is expected to provide the detail of the estate requirements for the remaining units returning from Germany. Until this work is complete, it is too early to say whether there will be other unit moves to these locations.

Yemen: Military Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 34-5W, on Yemen, what the training is which is being provided to Yemeni officers in the UK. [83859]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* Yemeni officers are currently undertaking training on courses at the following establishments within the UK:

Royal College of Defence Studies: strategic development and training for senior officers.

Joint Services Command and Staff College: staff training for middle ranking officers.

Britannia Royal Naval College: Navy initial officer training.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst: Army initial officer training.

Defence School of Languages: English language training.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83786]

Gregory Barker: DECC receives its catering services through a contract procured by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The Government Buying Standards for Food were not published at the time of the competition for DEFRA's catering contract. However, it was made clear in the tendering specification that when established, and as amended from time to time, the successful caterer would be required to comply with the Government Buying

Standards. This condition applies to the whole of the DEFRA contract and DEFRA is determined to ensure that the standards are met in full.

In relation to those DECC non-departmental public bodies that have contracts covering catering::

the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) facilities management provider is responsible for the provision of catering through a contract with an external catering company. The NDA's Facilities Management contract was procured through a Government Procurement Service framework and meets the Government buying standards; and

60% of Coal Authority catering purchases meet the Government buying standards.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been realised through use of such procedures in the last year. [83644]

Gregory Barker: The Department has adopted a Procurement Code which states that the main objective of procurement is to obtain best value for money. Value for money is assessed on the basis of the whole life cost, which takes into account all aspects of cost of the contract over its duration. A key principle of the Procurement Code is that all procurement activity will be subject to the appropriate level of competition.

DECC also adheres to Cabinet Office policy and uses Government Procurement Service frameworks to minimise the need for separate procurements, align service requirements and consolidate expenditure across Government.

Specific savings realised through these procedures in the past year include a £250,000 per annum telephony saving.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84235]

Gregory Barker: The Department receives some services from other Departments under shared service arrangements. Aside from these arrangements, the department has not outsourced any services since it was created in 2008.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has requested an increase in the overall cap set by the control framework for his Department's levy-funded spending since the implementation of the framework. [84131]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not requested an increase in the overall cap set by the control framework as the cap was established at the 2010 spending review and covers the entire spending review period to 2014-15. Should other policies be classified as levies by the Office for National Statistics and fall within the control framework, the Department and HM Treasury will come to an agreement on how these are to be accommodated within the framework.

Energy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he expects the annual energy statement for 2011 to be published. [84390]

Charles Hendry: The annual energy statement (AES) was published in the form of an oral statement in Parliament by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 299-302.

For the full text of the AES please see:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/aes_2011/aes_2011.aspx

Energy: Conservation

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the British Standards Institution's draft document PAS 2030. [84450]

Gregory Barker: The British Standards Institution ran a consultation on the draft PAS 2030.

176 organisations and individuals responded, resulting in 660 detailed comments. Many of these will be reflected in a revised PAS 2030 which is due to be published at the end of January 2012.

Energy: Meters

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in North West Durham constituency use prepayment meters to pay for their energy supplies. [84119]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem monitors and publishes information about gas and electricity prepayment customers (in its Monitoring Company Performance Quarterly Reports). The data are published for England, Scotland and Wales and not on a parliamentary constituency basis. In March 2011, the last period for which data have been published, the number of customers in England using prepayment meters was 2.3 million for gas and 3.2 million for electricity.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in 2010-11. [75005]

Norman Baker: The central Department and six of its seven agencies spent £155,875 in 2010-11 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines. The Driving Standards Agency could provide the figure only at disproportionate cost.

In 2010-11 the central Department spent £59,450 and in 2011-12, to date, £12,217.

Felixstowe Port

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the expected change in the levels of *(a)* road and *(b)* rail freight in Cambridgeshire as a result of the opening of the new deep water shipping terminal at Felixstowe. [83942]

Mike Penning: The Department does not make specific traffic estimates of this kind. However, the Department's A14 Study is looking generally at the contribution of freight to demand in the A14 corridor.

The Harbour Revision Order (HRO, SI 2007/3219 as amended) authorising the Felixstowe works, of which the berths recently opened constitute the first phase, has an associated set of planning obligations. These, based on transport assessment associated with the HRO, require certain travel management measures and financial contributions towards infrastructure improvements, some of which will be triggered by commencement of the second phase works. The aims of these obligations include to restrain HGV demand on the A14, particularly at peak times, and to encourage rail use.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails her Department has received on High Speed 2 in the last 12 months. [82957]

Justine Greening: Approximately 3,600 letters and 6,000 e-mails have been received since November 2010.

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will commission a full assessment of alternatives to the proposed High Speed 2 railway line. [82983]

Justine Greening: A full assessment of the strategic alternatives to HS2 was published alongside the recent consultation. The report is available at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/strategic-alternatives

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Construction

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department plans to announce the proposed works to be undertaken in Phase 1 of the Y network for High Speed 2; how such works will facilitate any proceeding works for Phase 2; and what works will facilitate any interim arrangements. [82901]

Justine Greening: I will make an announcement on the scheme in December and, should this be to proceed, the proposed alignment to be undertaken in Phase 1 of the Y network (London to West Midlands) would accommodate the anticipated alignment of Phase 2.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Environment Protection

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will publish an assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed High Speed 2 railway line on the countryside. [82980]

Justine Greening: The recent high-speed rail consultation was accompanied by an appraisal of sustainability which assessed the potential impact the scheme might have on the environment. Should the scheme proceed, an environmental impact assessment would be undertaken to look at issues in greater detail and allow an environmental statement to be produced and consulted on.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Finance

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department will publish *(a)* its summary of the financial case for the proposed High Speed 2 (HS2) railway line, *(b)* the projected financial contribution to HS2 from sources outwith her Department and *(c)* the projected financial contribution to HS2 from her Department and the potential effect of that contribution on funding of the remainder of the railway network. [82982]

Justine Greening: Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, the business case for the Government's proposals on HS2, which includes the financial case, will continually evolve throughout the development of the scheme. Should the Government proceed with HS2, we would look to make available information on the financial implications of the project.

High-speed Trains

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will publish full details of the technical basis for her Department's statement that operating 18 trains per hour, or more, is feasible on a high-speed rail line with train speeds upwards of 225 mph. [82981]

Justine Greening: The Transport Select Committee has published evidence provided by HS2 Ltd on the feasibility of operating 18 trains per hour on the proposed high-speed rail network. The evidence is available at question 9 of the following report:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmtran/1185/1185we39.htm

HS2 Ltd subsequently published the technical reports underpinning its feasibility assessment. The reports are available at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/freedom-of-information/FOI11-312-77862

M180: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the roadworks to be completed and all carriageways open on the M180 motorway; and if she will make a statement. [83450]

Mike Penning: There are roadworks currently taking place on the M180 at junction 5. These works began on 31 October and are programmed to finish by 16 December 2011. These works, which consist of lighting cabling renewal, have a lane 2 closure in each direction for the duration of the works, 24 hours a day.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what her Department's estimate is of the number of vehicles registered on or after 1 March 2001 that have been overcharged for vehicle excise duty by the DVLA because the records that the DVLA held about their carbon emissions were incorrect; [83451]

(2) how much has been repaid to motorists by the DVLA because they had been overcharged for vehicle excise duty due to incorrect information about the carbon emissions of their vehicle. [83452]

Mike Penning: The information requested in both questions is not recorded. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency carried out an exercise in April this year which identified 2,171 records where the emissions figure held was different from the manufacturer's data. After investigation it was found that while the emissions figure was incorrect it did not affect the rate of vehicle excise duty and no keepers had been over or under charged.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to encourage more people to buy environmentally-friendly cars. [83434]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* The Department for Transport leads for the UK in negotiating efficiency standards for new cars and regulations through the EU. As a result of existing regulations new cars will on average be 40% more efficient in 2020 compared to 2008.

The Department is promoting uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles through the Plug-In Car Grant (PiCG), which provides a grant of 25% towards the cost of an eligible vehicle, up to a maximum of £5,000.

The Department also encourages people to choose lower CO_2 cars through the successful car labelling scheme. The colour-coded fuel economy label for new cars is now displayed in over 90% of new car dealerships. A similar label scheme for used cars was introduced in 2009.

Roads: Fees and Charges

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the receipts from *(a)* congestion charges, *(b)* road tolls, *(c)* bridge tolls and *(d)* other forms of road charging in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [82939]

Mike Penning: No such estimate has been made. Most congestion charges and toils are private enterprises or run by local authorities. The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible only for the Dartford Crossing. In 2009-10 the gross revenues for the crossing were £71,780,737. This information, and the same for earlier years, is published in the crossing's accounts at:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4068.aspx

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Second Homes

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how councils will be able to measure accurately the number of second homes in their area after proposals to end the council tax discount for second homes come into place. [83879]

Robert Neill: In its consultation paper "Technical Reforms of Council Tax", the Government recognise that if authorities choose, as the Government propose they might, not to offer a discount on second homes, it will become more difficult in practice to distinguish second homes from other dwellings; and ask respondents how authorities might then identify them. The consultation will close on 29 December, and the Government's response will be published as soon as possible thereafter.

High Rise Flats: Fire Extinguishers

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of retrofitting high-rise tower blocks with automatic fire suppression systems; and if he will make a statement. [83524]

Andrew Stunell: We have not made a formal assessment. However, it is the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser's view that it would not be economically viable or practical to fit sprinklers to all existing high-rise residential buildings.

It is a matter for individual housing owners and landlords to decide if automatic fire suppression is required as part of their fire safety strategy, based on their fire risk assessment.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of homelessness acceptances there have been since 2009-10 where the end of an assured shorthold tenancy is the cause of homelessness. [83228]

Grant Shapps: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and a summary is published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Breakdowns are collected of the reasons for loss of last settled home and the data are published in the table at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1984198.xls

Included are the number of households owed the main homelessness duty for which an end of an assured shorthold tenancy was the reason for loss of last settled home.

Local Government: Trade Union Officials

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to end full-time trade union officials being employed in local government paid for from the public purse. [83756]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 126-127W, to my hon. Friend, the Member for Witham (Priti Patel).

Planning Permission

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what status existing planning policy *(a)* statements, *(b)* guidance and *(c)* circulars will have until the National Planning Policy Framework comes into force. [83330]

Greg Clark: Existing planning policy statements, guidance and circulars remain in place and continue to have the same status and effect under planning legislation until the National Planning Policy Framework comes into force. At that time the National Planning Policy Framework will replace existing planning policy documents. The proposed list of planning policy documents to be cancelled is set out at page 13, paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework consultation document, which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframeworkconsultation

Questions 4(a) and 4(b) in the consultation asked what light-touch guidance should accompany the new framework, and what organisations are best placed to provide it. We are now reviewing responses to the consultation.

Regeneration: South West Region

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to support regeneration in *(a)* Swindon Borough and *(b)* the South West. [83389]

Grant Shapps: The Government are taking a new approach to regeneration and are working to give communities and local partners the powers, tools and information that they need to address local priorities for regeneration and growth. For example:

Swindon and Wiltshire are establishing a Local Enterprise Partnership which will bring together the private and public sectors to drive forward economic growth. The partnership will direct £6 million of funding that has been allocated to the Swindon and Wiltshire through the Growing Places Fund, which will support infrastructure and help to unlock economic development and housing.

Local Enterprise Partnerships have already been established in the West of England, Heart of the South West, Cornwall, and Dorset. Between them they have a provisional allocation of £42.4 million from the Growing Places fund.

Swindon is one of the first 16 areas to have established a Community Budget for families with multiple problems. They are using the new freedoms the approach gives them to redesign services across different service boundaries.

We are working with Swindon borough council to better utilise public assets to make savings, promote growth and help regenerate areas. The Swindon Capital Asset and Pathfinder Programme is run by the Local Government Association who are supporting a further 15 authorities, including Wiltshire, Devon, Somerset and Bournemouth.

Swindon borough council proposes to transfer their council housing stock to a Housing Association to access significant private investment funding to maintain the housing stock and support regeneration in neighbourhoods.

The Homes and Communities Agency is supporting the regeneration of Union Square in the town centre with more than £12 million from the Agency. The Agency has also recently completed a contract with GreenSquare group to invest £1.7 million in the delivery of 81 Affordable Rent and 13 Affordable Home Ownership units in Swindon. The Agency is in discussions with the Council about Wichelstowe, which has planning permission for 3,650 homes, along with associated retail, commercial and community buildings. This is part of a wider investment through the Affordable Homes Programme which has seen the Agency allocate £1.8 billion in the delivery of 80,000 new affordable homes across England.

Allocations under the Affordable Homes Programme for its South and South West operational area (which also includes Hampshire, Berkshire. Oxfordshire and the Isle of Wight) will see the Agency invest more than £241 million, to deliver 12,721 new affordable homes by 2015.

49 sites have transferred from the South West Regional Development Agency to the Homes and Communities Agency, which will work with local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, businesses and other partners to ensure that the best benefits are secured, whether these are jobs, homes or businesses.

The Regional Growth Fund has funded 13 bids in local areas across the South West creating and safeguarding an estimated 24,000 jobs. There are Enterprise Zones agreed in Bristol, Newquay and Gosport, that between them expect to create thousands of new jobs in the locality and will support regeneration in these areas.

Right to Buy Scheme

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has made to promote the take-up of the right to buy. [83348]

Grant Shapps: The Department will consult widely on the Government's proposal to increase right to buy discounts.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we will ensure that changes to the scheme are widely publicised.

Social Rented Housing: Armed Forces

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Government are giving to local authorities to ensure priority access for service and ex-service personnel for council accommodation. [83339]

Grant Shapps: We will consult on a change to the law in England by regulation to ensure that those who have served in the armed forces and have urgent housing needs should receive 'additional preference' (i.e. high priority) in social housing allocation schemes. We will also consult on regulations which make sure that service personnel who have to move from base to base do not lose their qualification rights to social housing. At the same time we will issue draft statutory allocations guidance for consultation which will provide advice on implementation of these regulations. More generally it will provide clear guidance on the different ways in

which proper provision can and should be made for current and former service personnel, including through the use of local preference criteria.

I have recently written to all hon. and right hon. Members to inform them of the actions that the Government are taking to ensure that current and ex-service personnel have the housing support they need and am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many members of the armed forces were on social housing waiting lists in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland in each of the last five years; [83486]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on the Government's plans for additional preference in the allocation of social housing to members of the armed forces; [83487]

(3) which local authorities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland give additional preference to (i) members of the armed forces and (ii) veterans when allocating social housing. [83488]

Grant Shapps: We do not hold information centrally on the number of armed forces personnel on social housing waiting lists in England, Wales or Scotland.

Currently, the legislation allows, but does not require, local housing authorities in England and Wales to frame their allocation scheme to give additional preference to applicants, including current and former members of the armed forces, who are in urgent housing need. There is no similar requirement in Scottish legislation. We do not collect information centrally on the number or identity of local housing authorities which take advantage of this flexibility.

The Housing Strategy published on 21 November included a commitment to consult on a change to the law which would require local housing authorities in England to provide for former service personnel with urgent housing needs to receive additional preference in their allocation scheme, so that they should always be at or near the top of waiting lists. Officials in my Department have discussed our proposals with their counterparts in the Welsh and Scottish Governments.

I have recently written to all hon. and right hon. Members to inform them of the actions that the Government are taking to ensure that current and ex-service personnel have the housing support they need and am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by his Department. [83763]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's two UK office staff restaurants have operated under contract to Mitie Technical Facilities Management since December 2010 on a non-subsidised basis.

Mitie Catering has advised that it does not purchase liquid egg for either of the two DFID sites.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of food sourced by his Department was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83764]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's two UK office staff restaurants have operated under contract to Mitie Technical Facilities Management since December 2010 on a non-subsidised basis.

Approximately 59% of the food purchased by Mitie Catering for DFID's London Headquarters has been procured from UK producers.

Approximately 68% of the food purchased by Mitie Catering for DFID's East Kilbride Headquarters has been procured from UK producers.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that it meets the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83765]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's two UK office staff restaurants have operated under contract to Mitie Technical Facilities Management since December 2010 on a non-subsidised basis.

To ensure DFID's contract with Mitie Technical Facilities Management reflects the Government's commitment on UK buying standards on food, Mitie Catering must take full account of and abide by the DEFRA Public Sector Food Procurement Initiatives (PSFPI).

Haiti: Asylum

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider having discussions with the Government of the Dominican Republic on the financial assistance needed to deal with refugees from Haiti. [83602]

Mr Duncan: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) opened an office in the Dominican Republic in 2010 to provide assistance to refugees from Haiti and so is well placed to discuss this matter with the Government of the Dominican Republic. The UK's contribution to any necessary support would be from our core support to UNHCR (£118 million between 2011 and 2015).

International Assistance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals will be met. [83388]

Mr Duncan: The UK participated actively in the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010, which agreed the document "Keeping the Promise—United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals". This set out a path towards meeting the MDGs, and the UK will remain at the forefront of international efforts to achieve the MDGs.

We have also taken significant steps to make British aid more focused and as effective as possible in order to maintain the momentum towards the MDGs. The bilateral aid review developed a set of results offers using British funds, underpinned by evidence and value for money, which will address each of the MDGs. At the same time the multilateral aid review examined the effectiveness of each of the international funds and organisations through which the UK also spends aid in order to tackle poverty.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the representatives of the World Food Programme on the reliability of estimates of the number of *(a)* people affected and *(b)* famine zones in respect of the crisis in Somalia. [83636]

Mr Duncan: Latest surveys by the United Nations Food Security and Analysis Unit (FSNAU) show that the number of regions/population groups experiencing famine has fallen from six to three, and that four million people across Somalia will require humanitarian assistance until at least August 2012. FSNAU is the United Nations agency responsible for food security assessments undertaken inside Somalia. Staff from my Department are confident that the FSNAU's assessments are robust, but recognise that conflict and ongoing migration within and out of Somalia complicate the conduct of field surveys.

I have discussed the humanitarian situation in Somalia with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) several times during the current crisis. She has never questioned FSNAU's estimates which WFP feeds into.

Somalia: Reconstruction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the level of recovery in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [83635]

Mr Duncan: According to latest surveys undertaken by the United Nations Food Security and Analysis Unit (FSNAU), famine conditions are now confined to three regions/population groups of south Somalia—down from six. While this represents an improvement, those areas no longer experiencing famine are still assessed to be in humanitarian emergency conditions, and FSNAU has warned that famine will re-emerge without relief aid. The provision of humanitarian aid, including that funded by the UK, has played a key role in the improved humanitarian context in Somalia.

FSNAU's assessments show that famine still persists among internally displaced people in Afgooye and Mogadishu and in Middle Shabelle region. But with continued support by the start of 2012 these regions/ population groups should no longer experience famine. Some four million Somalis will remain in crisis until at least August 2012.

EDUCATION

Child Protection

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he plans to ensure that the revised statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children", will be appropriately enforced on all relevant partner agencies. [83113]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 November 2011]:* The Government response to Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection committed to revising "Working Together to Safeguard Children" by July 2012.

"Working Together to Safeguard Children" will provide guidance on how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The guidance will remain on a statutory footing and all relevant agencies must have regard to it.

Ofsted will continue to undertake universal inspections of local authority safeguarding services. We are also working with all relevant inspectorates to consider how inspections can examine the effectiveness of all local services, in line with Professor Munro's recommendation. This will help drive further improvement in the safeguarding of children and young people.

A multi-disciplinary Professional Advisory Group has been convened and is advising on proposed revisions to the statutory guidance. A full, formal consultation will commence on the revised "Working Together to Safeguard Children" from early 2012.

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on improvements to the collection of data on child neglect by local authorities. [83529]

Tim Loughton: On 31 October 2011, the Government published "Safeguarding children in the reformed NHS: a co-produced work programme with Department of Health, Department for Education and other key stakeholders". On the same day, the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), and I wrote to confirm our Departments' commitment to ensure robust arrangements for safeguarding children in the NHS of the future.

The Department has been working with the Department of Health and the wider sector to take forward Professor Munro's recommendation to have a revised suite of local and national performance information to drive improvements in children's safeguarding.

The Department for Education currently collects data annually from local authorities on children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan for physical, mental and sexual abuse or neglect. The draft child safeguarding data set published in Professor Munro's final report includes additional items that would give local authorities and central Government greater understanding of neglect and of other aspects of safeguarding children than is currently available through existing collections.

We will be consulting formally on the draft data set in the new year prior to announcing the content of the data set in May 2012. We will continue working with the Department of Health as the work develops.

Food Procurement

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on food procurement in each year from 1997 to 2011. [80316]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83002]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education central records do not distinguish between the categories of publication requested, and so to provide a comprehensive answer setting out total quantities, costs, and publishing and design companies for each would incur disproportionate cost. Records do show, however, that as part of our output we have produced 290 research reports and associated documents from May 2010 to date.

In order to reduce costs we adopt a policy of publishing "digital by default", and we carry out design work using in-house expertise at no additional cost wherever practical. Where external support is required, we use our publishing delivery service contract with Prolog Communisis or publish through the Government's contract with TSO.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure local safeguarding children boards will be *(a)* appropriately resourced and *(b)* able to secure improvement in partner agencies in local areas. [83112]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 November 2011]:* Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) perform an important function in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and by board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve.

LSCBs have a unique, system-wide role to play in helping and protecting children and young people and the Government believe that their role and impact should be strengthened. We are currently exploring how best to do that with a range of partners in the sector and with LSCBs themselves. Part of this work will be to consider LSCBs' capacity at the local level to perform their role effectively.

Youth Services: Expenditure

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the percentage change in each local authority's expenditure on youth services between 2009-10 and 2010-11. [82665]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* Figures for actual spend by local authority in 2010-11 are not available until January 2012. Therefore the best estimate of the percentage change must be based on planned spend, for which figures are available for both years.

According to the figures provided by local authorities the change in planned expenditure for each local authority on youth services between 2009-10 and 2010-11 may be found in the following table.

Planned spend on services for young people[1,2]

		All provision of activities for YP		
		2009-10	*2010-11*	*% change*
201	City of London	666,000	652,898	-2
202	Camden	9,192,225	8,607,759	-6
203	Greenwich	8,615,757	8,557,550	-1
204	Hackney	10,880,863	13,142,050	+21
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	6,007,379	4,785,620	-20
206	Islington	11,312,627	12,066,258	+7
207	Kensington and Chelsea	5,666,300	6,238,850	+10
208	Lambeth	9,119,050	8,091,789	-11
209	Lewisham	10,079,874	8,883,241	-12
210	Southwark	10,666,019	10,398,082	-3
211	Tower Hamlets	9,878,854	16,429,891	+66
212	Wandsworth	7,862,789	7,415,109	-6
213	Westminster	7,005,950	5,860,550	-16
301	Barking and Dagenham	5,059,980	4,840,071	-4
302	Barnet	6,114,538	5,630,721	-8
303	Bexley	4,369,000	4,359,000	-0
304	Brent	6,437,645	6,530,052	+1
305	Bromley	4,517,251	4,145,941	-8
306	Croydon	11,414,496	10,641,250	-7
307	Ealing	7,014,498	6,840,523	-2
308	Enfield	7,275,953	5,854,891	-6
309	Haringey	5,395,964	4,615,943	-14
310	Harrow	4,793,500	4,356,019	-9
311	Havering	5,043,568	5,060,303	+0
312	Hillingdon	6,650,560	8,975,500	+35
313	Hounslow	5,585,589	5,711,096	+2
314	Kingston upon Thames	3,568,968	3,219,666	-10
315	Merton	3,520,776	3,192,531	-9
316	Newham	9,738,241	13,908,378	+43
317	Redbridge	5,133,067	4,968,568	-3
318	Richmond upon Thames	3,791,923	3,784,154	-0
319	Sutton	7,550,300	3,422,200	-55
320	Waltham Forest	6,985,154	7,449,204	+7
330	Birmingham	26,166,460	24,070,039	-8
331	Coventry	9,426,838	8,793,570	-7
332	Dudley	7,714,682	7,329,603	-5
333	Sandwell	9,068,100	8,927,500	-2
334	Solihull	4,529,671	4,562,015	+1
335	Walsall	7,539,228	7,745,741	+3
336	Wolverhampton	8,576,870	8,322,820	-3
340	Knowsley	2,377,634	4,294,098	+81
341	Liverpool	15,759,505	15,936,302	+1
342	St Helens	3,649,585	5,542,480	+52
343	Sefton	6,102,474	9,472,502	+55
344	Wirral	8,288,800	8,443,400	+2
350	Bolton	7,906,881	7,971,700	+1
351	Bury	3,852,349	3,910,407	+2
352	Manchester	15,388,463	16,171,577	+5
353	Oldham	3,280,501	2,944,790	-10

Planned spend on services for young people[1,2]

		All provision of activities for YP		
		2009-10	*2010-11*	*% change*
354	Rochdale	5,689,387	5,605,645	-1
355	Salford	6,521,300	7,877,215	+21
356	Stockport	6,300,530	6,927,460	+10
357	Tameside	4,667,000	6,129,250	+31
358	Trafford	4,590,747	4,652,817	+1
359	Wigan	8,637,708	8,958,539	+4
370	Barnsley	6,003,995	5,809,438	-3
371	Doncaster	7,186,799	7,826,198	+9
372	Rotherham	7,131,039	7,004,053	-2
373	Sheffield	12,374,088	16,814,023	+36
380	Bradford	14,125,571	13,587,675	-4
381	Calderdale	6,884,288	6,905,315	+0
382	Kirklees	7,991,423	10,950,291	+37
383	Leeds	21,068,041	23,174,220	+10
384	Wakefield	8,988,646	9,745,673	+8
390	Gateshead	4,436,510	3,441,537	-22
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,941,630	8,359,241	-7
392	North Tyneside	4,927,396	3,347,299	-32
393	South Tyneside	4,515,776	5,588,360	+24
394	Sunderland	13,760,677	13,344,370	-3
420	Isles of Scilly	117,500	121,169	+3
800	Bath and North East Somerset	3,059,572	3,348,192	+9
801	Bristol, City of	9,461,233	8,717,687	-8
802	North Somerset	3,125,597	3,085,005	-1
803	South Gloucestershire	4,623,000	4,671,000	+1
805	Hartlepool	3,116,187	3,116,165	-0
806	Middlesbrough	5,239,311	5,127,622	-2
807	Redcar and Cleveland	4,180,541	5,101,148	+22
808	Stockton-on-Tees	5,657,412	5,693,716	+1
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	15,830,549	11,401,498	-28
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	7,036,042	6,376,840	-9
812	North East Lincolnshire	5,824,822	5,627,008	-3
813	North Lincolnshire	3,686,390	3,985,870	+8
815	North Yorkshire	11,353,670	10,734,506	-5
816	York	3,680,980	4,084,780	+11
821	Luton	4,832,848	5,186,013	+7
822	Bedford borough	3,079,953	3,514,972	+14
823	Central Bedfordshire	3,713,871	4,162,562	+12
825	Buckinghamshire	10,364,837	8,870,556	-14
826	Milton Keynes	6,088,855	6,275,696	+3
830	Derbyshire	14,144,793	14,206,246	+0
831	Derby	6,436,783	7,120,359	+11
835	Dorset	6,724,800	6,768,700	+1
836	Poole	2,860,680	2,635,129	-8
837	Bournemouth	3,747,230	3,835,200	+2
840	Durham	11,626,733	11,770,968	+1
841	Darlington	2,493,174	2,899,854	+16
845	East Sussex	8,670,541	8,100,056	-7
846	Brighton and Hove	6,104,165	5,161,350	-15
850	Hampshire	16,947,000	16,381,600	-3
851	Portsmouth	3,833,564	3,269,025	-15

Planned spend on services for young people[1,2]

		All provision of activities for YP		
		2009-10	*2010-11*	*% change*
852	Southampton	4,123,558	4,164,919	+1
855	Leicestershire	10,526,266	10,376,086	-1
856	Leicester	9,560,381	9,268,026	-3
857	Rutland	878,000	1,013,300	+15
860	Staffordshire	14,806,480	15,116,319	+2
861	Stoke-on-Trent	5,776,599	7,168,273	+24
865	Wiltshire	8,895,984	8,345,741	-6
866	Swindon	4,530,148	4,698,623	+4
867	Bracknell Forest	2,678,719	2,747,019	+3
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,456,160	3,102,050	-10
869	West Berkshire	3,700,905	3,898,080	+5
870	Reading	3,769,801	3,984,274	+6
871	Slough	4,085,803	4,598,167	+13
872	Wokingham	3,021,350	2,704,138	-10
873	Cambridgeshire	8,740,561	9,423,407	+8
874	Peterborough	3,925,780	3,581,008	-9
876	Halton	3,375,087	3,544,304	+5
877	Warrington	4,001,491	4,119,028	+3
878	Devon	13,392,477	12,754,652	-5
879	Plymouth	7,353,567	7,113,359	-3
880	Torbay	2,626,370	3,016,780	+15
881	Essex	23,130,992	20,340,878	-12
882	Southend-on-Sea	3,334,036	3,489,100	+5
883	Thurrock	3,902,336	3,108,200	-20
884	Herefordshire	3,005,668	2,832,459	-6
885	Worcestershire	9,403,682	10,137,931	+8
886	Kent	28,555,193	28,259,357	-1
887	Medway	5,002,945	8,378,827	+67
888	Lancashire	26,973,129	26,990,353	+0
889	Blackburn with Darwen	4,086,279	4,323,400	+6
890	Blackpool	4,732,874	4,261,268	-10
891	Nottinghamshire	17,264,998	17,479,746	+1
892	Nottingham	10,453,562	6,124,743	-41
893	Shropshire	5,635,042	5,677,032	+1
894	Telford and Wrekin	3,174,982	3,676,871	+16
895	Cheshire East	4,574,620	4,288,130	-6
896	Cheshire West and Chester	4,823,661	5,005,058	+4
908	Cornwall	8,762,115	8,766,289	+0
909	Cumbria	8,674,788	9,160,000	+6
916	Gloucestershire	10,656,650	10,105,471	-5
919	Hertfordshire	15,815,227	14,541,037	-8
921	Isle of Wight	3,068,692	2,874,610	-6
925	Lincolnshire	11,954,784	11,257,912	-6
926	Norfolk	14,222,083	13,321,323	-6
928	Northamptonshire	9,082,787	8,779,420	-3
929	Northumberland	6,274,040	7,110,500	+13
931	Oxfordshire	10,190,689	10,209,748	+0
933	Somerset	11,978,420	10,307,882	-14
935	Suffolk	11,755,705	11,418,962	-3
935	Surrey	22,013,769	21,124,795	-4
937	Warwickshire	10,563,182	10,954,965	+4

Planned spend on services for young people[1,2]

		All provision of activities for YP		
		2009-10	*2010-11*	*% change*
938	West Sussex	11,723,315	10,187,379	-13
	Total England	1,176,963,715	1,180,704,500	+0

[1] Data are as reported by LAs in their s251 Budget returns.
[2] Total services for young people includes spend on universal services for young people (including youth work, positive activities, Connexions and information, advice and guidance), targeted services for young people (including youth work, positive activities and information, advice and guidance), substance misuse services (drugs, alcohol, and volatile substances), teenage pregnancy services, discretionary awards and student support.

Youth Services: Manpower

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many youth workers were employed in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [82608]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold or collect information on the numbers of youth workers employed by local authorities. It is the responsibility of local authorities to determine, in the light of their assessment of local needs and circumstances, how best to configure their services and the workforce required to deliver them.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Mass Media

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what account he took of parliamentary protocol in deciding to give interviews to the BBC and Sky News on the youth contract on 25 November 2011. [83948]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The details of the youth contract were released by the Department for Work and Pensions via a written ministerial statement on the morning of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 42-44WS.

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish details of the media interviews he carried out on 24 and 25 November 2011, including *(a)* to whom they were made, *(b)* the subject matter and *(c)* the time they were made. [83949]

The Deputy Prime Minister: On 24 November I carried out media interviews with the BBC, ITN and Sky with a strict embargo on broadcast until lunchtime on 25 November. I also carried out follow-up interviews on 25 November. The subject matters covered in these interviews were the economy, the Scarman lecture and youth unemployment.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what procedures his Office has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been realised through use of such procedures in the last year. [83641]

The Deputy Prime Minister: For the purposes of corporate administration and financial management, my Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 832W.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Office has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82991]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Between May 2010 and October 2011, my Office published 10 Command Papers and one House of Commons paper with The Stationery Office, (including one designed by the Central Office of Information) at a total cost of £27,583. A further three papers were published, two internally and one with the Central Office of Information, at a total cost of £13,472.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Sector: Computer Software

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has considered encouraging public bodies and central Government Departments to use open source software; and how many such bodies have began using open source software since May 2010. [83484]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office recognises that in certain circumstances open source solutions present opportunities for improved value for money and can stimulate a more competitive IT marketplace.

Its position is to introduce a level playing field where both open source and proprietary software will be evaluated and the solution that offers best value for money, when the total cost of ownership has been calculated, will be selected. To assist Departments and bodies when evaluating open source solutions, the Cabinet Office has published an Open Source Procurement Toolkit, which is available at:

https://update.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/open-source-procurement-toolkit

As part of the Strategic Implementation Plan that followed the Government IT strategy, the Cabinet Office is collecting and will publish publishing metrics, including the total number of open source software solutions deployed by central Government Departments. These will be published in the ICT Strategy Progress update in March 2012.

Public Sector: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the public sector in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley Borough in each of the next three years. [84334]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people were employed in the public sector in (a) the West Midlands and (b) Dudley Borough in each of the next three years. (84334)

Public Sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey.

The Office for National Statistics does not produce projections for information on the number of people employed in the public sector in (a) the West Midlands and (b) Dudley Borough in each of the next three years.

As an alternative Table 1 attached shows the number of persons employed in the public sector, resident in the West Midlands and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. The figures have been provided from the APS for the 12 month periods ending in January from 2009 to 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of the resident population of West Midlands and Dudley employed in the public sector

		Thousand
12 months ending:	*Level*	*Level*
January 2009	584	34
January 2010	599	36
January 2011	*585	**35

Note:
Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
KEY C Statistical
* Estimates are considered precise.
** Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Sustainable Development: Cabinet Committees

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Cabinet sub-committee is responsible for considering the business plans of Government Departments in relation to sustainable development principles. [84033]

Mr Letwin: As the Minister responsible for Government policy, I have been asked to respond. As part of her lead responsibility for sustainable development, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), sits on the Economic Affairs, Home Affairs and Reducing Regulation Committees, to enforce the Government's commitment to sustainability across policy making. In addition, working closely with the Secretary of State, I hold Departments to account through the quarterly business plan review process.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships his Department plans to offer in each of the next four years. [81508]

Mr Hayes: The Department has not set itself future numerical targets for apprenticeships as we have been going through a period of restructure and reducing staff numbers. However, I remain strongly committed to the programme and will continue to support its use to up-skill staff.

Apprenticeships in BIS will be linked to specific jobs and individuals' skills needs. The Department has supported 14 new apprenticeships since April 2011.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts have been filled by an *(a)* employee new to the businesses and *(b)* existing employee in 2010-11. [83473]

Mr Hayes: Following the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 all apprentices have to be employed. We do not have information available on the number of apprenticeship starts that were employees new to the business or existing employees.

The Individualised Learner Record (ILR) records whether an apprentice has an 'employed' status on the day before they started their learning aim. But it does not provide detailed information to identify the length of time an apprentice has had an 'employed' status or whether they have moved to a new employer to start their apprenticeship programme. Employers may also delay starting employees onto an apprenticeship programme for a variety of reasons, including probationary periods. In these cases the apprentice may be recorded as 'employed' on the day before they started their apprenticeship, but they could still be new to the business.

In the 2010/11 academic year, provisional data show that 404,000 apprenticeship starts were recorded on the ILR as having an 'employed' status on the day before they started their learning aim.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

An apprentice pay survey, undertaken in 2007, indicated that 48% of apprentices had worked for their employer before starting their apprenticeship, with 52% new to the employer.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of apprenticeships started in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* region

was taken up by people aged (i) 19 to 24 and (ii) over 24 years in each of the last four years; [83583]

(2) what proportion of apprenticeships started in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* region was taken up by people aged 16 to 19 years in each of the last four years. [83582]

Mr Hayes: I have made data available in the Libraries of the House showing the proportion of apprenticeship programme starts by local authority and region in each age band from 2006/07 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

Information on the number of apprenticeship programme starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Public Houses

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many non-tied publicans *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the north-east and *(d)* nationally have managed their pub for more than three years. [83906]

Mr Davey: The Government do not maintain figures on how long publicans have managed their pubs.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many breaches of codes of practice by pub companies with their tenants *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the north-east and *(d)* nationally have been reported in the last 12 months. [83907]

Mr Davey: The Government do not maintain figures on how many breaches of the codes of practice have occurred. Oversight of the codes of practice is the responsibility of the British Institute of Innkeeping benchmark and accreditation service.

The Government recently announced a range of significant reforms in the pub industry, including for the industry framework code to be strengthened and made legally binding, as well as the establishment of an independent conciliation and arbitration service to resolve disputes relating to the code. The Government's reforms may be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8222/8222.pdf

Business

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what Overseas Market Introduction Service reports UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has produced for Oxitec Ltd; on what date each report was provided; to which countries exports were considered; and on what dates any follow-up meetings organised by UKTI, the Science and Innovation Network or his Department took place. [82683]

Mr Prisk: Oxitec has agreed that UK Trade & Investment can confirm it has delivered OMIS reports covering Brazil, Vietnam and India as detailed as follows. However, UK Trade & Investment's Overseas Market Introduction Service orders contain commercially sensitive information which cannot be released without the authority of each contributor or named company or individual in each market. Answering the question fully would require obtaining the authority of just under 70 companies or individuals across a number of overseas markets and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Market	*Report delivered*	*Activities delivered*
India	July 2005	Research to identify potential business partners in India. No meetings were organised by UKTI as part of this OMIS.
Brazil	February 2010	Research to identify potential partners with experience in transgenic technology and potential venture capital investors, plus a programme arranging service of calls on these companies.
Vietnam	June 2010	Background research into Vietnamese regulatory process and identifying potential partners. No meetings were organised as part of this OMIS.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of partners, proprietors and employees that are engaged in *(a)* incorporated and *(b)* non-incorporated businesses. [83944]

Mr Davey: Companies House does not keep any record of proprietors and employees of incorporated businesses. However, it does record the number of partners of limited liability partnerships and limited partnerships and the figures for these are as follows:

Type of business	*Number of partnerships*
Limited liability partnerships	202,858
Limited partnerships	106,753

Companies House does not keep any records relating to non-incorporated businesses.

Business: Government Assistance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the Welsh Assembly Government's *(a)* ReAct, *(b)* ProAct, *(c)* ReAct II and *(d)* ProAct Skills Growth Wales schemes; and if he will make a statement. [83402]

Mr Hayes: Responsibility for business and the economy and for education and skills is devolved. As such, it is for the Welsh Assembly Government to make suitable assessments of these schemes.

A range of support is in place for workers and for business in England. For example, the Job Centre Plus Rapid Response Service, which helps people facing redundancy to move rapidly into alternative employment. The Government have also put in place measures to help improve the skills of those who are unemployed so they can gain employment and progress in work.

Schemes like the Growth and Innovation Fund are broadly similar to the Welsh ProAct scheme, helping business to make the most of how skills can promote enterprise, productivity and growth.

Credit

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications to be listed on the Consumer Credit Public Register have been rejected in each of the last five years; and for what reason in each case. [83042]

Mr Davey: The following table lists, for the last five complete calendar years, the counts of all new applications, renewals or variations which have been "rejected" either by being made of no effect, or formally refused. For the formal refusals, if no appeal was received, the date of the final decision is used to decide which year to count them under. If an appeal was made, then the appeal decision date is used. Any cases with ongoing appeals are not included.

The figures relate to refusals, refusals to renew, and refusals to vary only. Revocations, granting in different terms, and requirements have not been included.

	Applications made of no effect	*Applications refused*
2006-07	562	40
2007-08	938	25
2008-09	953	14
2009-10	630	20
2010-11	200	18

Daylight Saving Bill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) from which part of his Department's budget he has made the provision for the payment of money relating to the Daylight Saving Bill; and if he will make a statement; [83614]

(2) how much and what proportion of the payment of money relating to the Daylight Saving Bill is in connection with *(a)* the passage of the Bill through Parliament and *(b)* consultation with the devolved Assemblies; [83615]

(3) what estimate he has made of any potential costs to be incurred by local authorities in England in respect of implementation of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill; [83616]

(4) if he will consult with the English regions on the implications of the Daylight Saving Bill; and if he will make a statement; [83617]

(5) how he plans to allocate expenditure proposed for implementation of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill. [83618]

Mr Davey: Provision for expenditure on the Daylight Saving Bill has not yet been made. Should the Bill be enacted, we anticipate any costs largely falling in the next financial year and allocations have yet to be made.

We have estimated the cost to the Government of providing an independent Oversight Group and commissioning the cost-benefit analysis reviewing the likely effects of advancing time in the United Kingdom by one hour at £750,000. This sum takes no account of the cost of the Bill's passage in Parliament, nor consultation with the devolved Assemblies. I would anticipate such expenditure being met from Departments' general running costs.

No estimate has yet been made by the Department as to the potential costs to be incurred by local authorities in England or anywhere else in the United Kingdom in respect of implementation of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill.

Should the Daylight Saving Bill become law, a full cost-benefit analysis of the potential effects of advancing time by one hour in the UK will be prepared. Representations will be invited from a wide range of organisations and bodies, including the local authorities of England as well as those of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Daylight Saving Bill has yet to complete parliamentary consideration; details of how to allocate expenditure have yet to be considered.

Departmental Communication

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84181]

Mr Davey: As of November 2011 the BIS communications directorate has 95 staff within four teams: Media Relations, Stakeholder and Ministerial Engagement, Internal Communications and Corporate Communications. In addition, BIS has 12 embedded communications practitioners placed in directorates across the Department.

The most recent information in respect of communications staff employed by the partners, agencies and non-departmental public bodies sponsored by BIS is contained in the Operational Efficiency Programme Benchmarking Report for April 2009 to May 2010, which was commissioned by the Cabinet Office. The link to access this information is

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/oep-benchmarking-data-2009-10

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82997]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010, the Department has published the following, which have incurred an external cost to be produced:

(a) Two campaigns which involved leaflets being produced at a cost of £170,208

(b) Three campaigns which involved posters being produced at a cost of £10,455

(c) 39 reports have been produced at a cost of £306,827

All items listed were produced by companies contracted through Government frameworks.

Export Credit Guarantees: Argentina

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 375W, on export credits guarantees, what trade deals comprise Argentina's £45.24 million debt. [83147]

Mr Davey: The information requested is not held in a readily identifiable form and would involve disproportionate cost to obtain.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has awarded to G4S since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each such contract. [83049]

Mr Davey: Central records indicate that the following total payments have been made to G4S Group companies since May 2010 for security services relating to the ex-Learning and Skills Council Estate;

	£
G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd	88,402,67
G4S Technology Ltd	36,413.36
Total	124,816.03

All figures exclude VAT.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 6 October 2011 with regard to Mr P. Wightman. [83198]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), responded to this letter on 17 October 2011.

Money Lenders

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many prosecutions have been brought against unlicensed money lenders in each of the last five years. [83045]

Mr Davey: In each of the last five years, the following number of prosecutions that have been brought against unlicensed money lenders through the Illegal Money Lending Project:

Financial year	*Prosecutions*
2007-08	50
2008-09	89
2009-10	57
2010-11	33

Source:
Illegal Money Lending Team

The Illegal Money Lending project was set up in 2004 as a pilot to investigate illegal money lenders (loan sharks). In 2007 the project was expanded to create three teams covering England, Scotland and Wales. As well as arresting and prosecuting loan sharks, the teams work with community partners to raise awareness of the practice and provide advice and support to victims. BIS funding for the project was £5.2 million in 2011/12.

National Debtline

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many calls have been made to the National Debtline in each month since May 2007. [83046]

Mr Davey: The following table shows the number of calls made to the National Debtline each month since May 2007

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
January	—	21,869	40,797	33,279	29,321
February	—	19,946	36,621	32,506	28,343
March	—	18,868	38,850	32,346	26,491
April	—	20,220	36,832	26,324	18,408
May	15,073	17,840	40,149	23,090	22,866
June	16,151	20,287	41,684	23,791	22,110
July	16,512	21,572	36,902	25,637	20,097
August	15,450	20,889	28,654	24,985	20,501
September	15,637	22,929	29,939	24,671	19,870
October	16,764	24,486	27,574	23,559	19,156
November	16,403	26,505	28,934	22,548	—
December	9,101	20,762	17,777	12,479	—

Source:
Money Advice Trust

National Debtline is managed by the Money Advice Trust, which is an independent charity funded in the main by donations and Government funding. In 2011-12, BIS Department provided £1 million towards the cost of the helpline.

Odgers Berndtson

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments Odgers Berndtson received from his Department for recruitment services from 1 May 2010 to 30 October 2011; and if he will make a statement. [82596]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* During the period 1 May 2010 to 30 October 2011, Human Resources in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills paid £16,355 plus VAT to Odgers Berndtson for recruitment services.

Oxitec Ltd

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what dates meetings between Ministers or officials of his Department and its predecessors and Oxitec Ltd have taken place since 2000. [82686]

Mr Davey: Information about Ministers' meetings is now published quarterly and can be accessed via the following link. Details of meetings which occurred prior to publication in October 2009 and meetings with officials, which are not recorded centrally, could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Public Sector: Training

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, with reference to the report by the British Chambers of Commerce on skills for business, if he will assess the merits of giving access to training to all public sector workers who are at risk of redundancy. [83705]

Mr Davey: All individuals, including public sector workers, can access the further education (FE) and skills system to undertake training, including to retrain and re-skill. The Government's Skills Strategy, Skills for Sustainable Growth, sets out how we are reforming the FE and skills system to better support and improve the skills of the work force, the performance of the economy and engagement in learning. The Government's objective is to deliver a skills system driven from the bottom up, able to respond to the needs of all individuals, communities and an increasingly dynamic economy.

Supermarkets: Competition

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on third party referrals to the groceries code adjudicator; and whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals in respect of such referrals. [82351]

Mr Davey: The Government's position is that only evidence from direct and indirect suppliers, and publically available evidence, should be able to initiate investigations by the groceries code adjudicator. However, we have agreed to consider further the question of whether evidence from trade bodies or whistleblowers should also be taken into account.

Trade Unions: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding was provided by the Skills Funding Agency and its predecessor bodies to *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* TUC Education in each of the last five years. [82138]

Mr Hayes: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Minister of State for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts) gave to my hon. Friend for Witham on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column reference 195W.

UK Trade & Investment Overseas Market Introduction Service report

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of each UK Trade & Investment Overseas Market Introduction Service report for Oxitec Ltd. [82684]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment provides support to UK business in 96 markets representing 98% of global GDP and delivers Overseas Market Introduction Service reports at the request of UK business. Each report contains detailed information gathered from a wide variety of foreign companies and individuals in the overseas markets. The information in each report is commercially sensitive and cannot be released without the authority of each contributor or named company or individual in each market. Answering the question would require obtaining the authority of just under 70 companies or individuals across a number of overseas markets and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Young People

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 19 and 24 were not in education, employment or training in Warrington South constituency in each academic year since 1997. [82348]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Warrington local authority in each year from 2000 to 2010. Due to incomplete data, comparable NEET estimates are not available prior to 2000.

Table 1: People aged 16-24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Warrington local authority

	NEET number	*NEET percentage*	*Confidence interval*
2000[1]	3,000	16%	+/- 6pp
2001[1]	3,000	17%	+/- 5pp
2002[1]	3,000	16%	+/- 5pp
2003[1]	2,000	8%	+/- 5pp
2004	3,000	12%	+/- 5pp
2005	2,000	9%	+/- 5pp
2006	2,000	10%	+/- 6pp
2007	2,000	13%	+/- 6pp
2008	3,000	14%	+/- 6pp
2009	3,000	18%	+/- 6pp
2010	3,000	14%	+/- 6pp

[1] Period covered is from March of the given year to the following February.

Estimates from 2004 to 2010 are from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which covers the period January to December of each year. Estimates from 2000 to 2003 are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS), the predecessor to the APS, which covers the period from March of the given year to the following February. The APS and ALALFS are the only available sources of data with a sample large enough to provide local authority estimates of the number of young people up to the age of 24 who are NEET. However, the sample is not large enough to provide estimates for smaller geographies, such as parliamentary constituencies, or to provide local authority estimates for age ranges narrower than 16 to 24.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-5 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 5pp above the estimate and 5pp below the estimate.

[1] Age used is academic age, which is defined as the respondent's age as at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95% confidence intervals.

Vocational Guidance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on ensuring a minimum professional qualification level for staff providing the telephone careers advice element of the National Careers Service. [81617]

Mr Hayes: Although the National Careers Service will be launched from April 2012, the telephone helpline element of the service has been in place since September 2011. It comprises two contracts for helpline services: one providing careers advice to young people, and the other providing information and careers advice to adults. The contract for services to young people requires the contractor to employ staff who are competent to deliver the service; the contract for services to adults requires the contractor to ensure that all advisers hold qualifications appropriate to their role. These requirements will be aligned as contracting arrangements allow to ensure that all telephone helpline advisers will be required to meet the same professional qualification levels. More broadly, the matrix Standard, to which all providers of the National Careers Service must be accredited by April 2013, will ensure that advisers providing helpline and face-to-face careers guidance are suitably qualified and meet these professional standards.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 1 December 2011

SCOTLAND

Legal Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83894]

David Mundell: No organisation which received funding from the Scotland Office has brought legal proceeding against the Department in the last five years.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by his Department. [83760]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not procure imported liquefied eggs.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of food sourced by his Department was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83761]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office procures very few food products. In instructing caterers for events paid for by the Scotland Office, regard is given to whether the food was procured from UK food producers.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to ensure that it meets the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83762]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office procures very few food products. In instructing caterers for events paid for by the Scotland Office, regard is given to whether the caterers meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering.

WALES

Personal Independence Payment

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations she has made to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect of her planned replacement of disability living allowance with personal independence payments for claimants in Wales. [84300]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions about welfare reform including reform of disability living allowance.

The Government are committed to supporting disabled people to lead independent lives. To achieve this we need to reform disability benefits to improve support for disabled people and to make the benefit more responsive to their needs. The personal independence payment will be more straightforward and help disabled people who face the greatest challenges to remain independent and lead full, active lives.

PRIME MINISTER

Manor Dean Cottage

Ian Austin: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he or *(b)* anyone acting on his behalf had discussions with (i) Lord Chadlington or (ii) anyone acting on his behalf about Manor Dean Cottage prior to its purchase. [84336]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my official spokesperson on 23 November 2011. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/morning-press-briefing-from-23-november-2011

Working Hours: EU Law

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on a UK opt-out from EU directives on working time; and if he will make a statement. [82872]

The Prime Minister: I discuss a range of issues with European counterparts on a regular basis. The coalition agreement is clear that this Government will work to limit the application of the working time directive in the UK. We remain committed to the view that working people should be able to work the hours they choose. The UK has been clear to EU partners that any amendments to the working time directive must retain the opt-out for workers from the directive's working hours limit.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Freedom of Information

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, when information on Freedom of Information (FOI) requests was last included on the IPSA website; for what reason none

have been added since then; how many FOI requests have been received since the website was last updated; and if he will make a statement. [81677]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 28 November 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about publication of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests on the IPSA website.

IPSA publishes a Freedom of Information disclosure log on its website providing full details of the requests and the responses provided. During the 2011/12 financial year there has been a lag in putting requests and answers on the website. Since early November, we have been putting this right and as of today's date (28 November 2011) all but four of the forty-nine requests for this financial year will be on the website. Hereafter, we plan to have completed answers on the website within two weeks of these answers being sent to the requestor.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to any imported liquefied eggs that are procured by the House of Commons catering service. [83726]

John Thurso: Whole eggs purchased by the House of Commons catering service are free range, British Lion Quality assured and date stamped. Liquid egg is produced in Belgium by a supplier whose eggs come from enriched cage supplies, in accordance with the European legislation on enriched cages which takes effect in 2012. There are no current plans to change these arrangements, but procurement practices are kept under constant review.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what proportion of food served in the House of Commons estate was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83725]

John Thurso: The House is subject to the EU procurement regulations and so cannot discriminate in favour of or against the produce of any member state. Appointed suppliers are therefore not required as a matter of course to confirm the country of origin of food supplied to the House of Commons catering service and thus no record is kept of the country of origin of foods.

However, periodic checks are made on the provenance of fresh meats and poultry supplies. An estimated 90% or more of beef, lamb, chicken and other poultry supplies is traceable to British producers and, in order to conform to higher welfare standards set out in purchasing specifications, all pork, bacon and sausages are supplied from British producers. All fresh eggs are free range, British Lion Quality assured.

The proportion of fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from UK food producers varies according to seasonal availability, but menus are constantly reviewed to make best use of local, seasonal produce.

Times of Sittings

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the average operating cost is of the House of Commons on a sitting *(a)* Monday, *(b)* Tuesday, *(c)* Wednesday, *(d)* Thursday and *(e)* Friday. [82602]

John Thurso: Most of the House's operating costs are fixed costs for salaries, ICT, accommodation and other facilities, and are only marginally affected by changes in the number of sitting days each year, the length of sittings or the specific weekdays on which these sittings are held. A meaningful average operating cost of a sitting on a particular weekday cannot therefore be calculated. The average marginal daily operating cost of a sitting, calculated as the sum that might on average be saved if there were not to be a sitting on any expected sitting day, or which might be incurred if there were an additional unplanned sitting, is around £20,000.

The marginal cost associated with different daily sitting and rising times arises primarily from *Hansard* printing costs, which reflect the overall length of a sitting, and late-night transport and overtime payments for Chamber and security staff. When the House sits beyond 11 pm, as is common on Mondays and Tuesdays, there are average additional marginal costs of around £9,300 compared with those of a sitting which ends before 6 pm. When the House rises between 6 pm and 11 pm, as is common on Wednesdays and Thursdays, average additional marginal costs of £3,300 are incurred compared with those of a sitting which ends before 6 pm. Because Fridays are shorter sitting days, the average marginal cost of a Friday sitting is about £1,250 less than a sitting on another day which ends before 6 pm.

All these figures are direct Chamber-related costs, and do not include the impact of different rising times on catering costs and income.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on introducing a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights; if he will publish the letter he sent to party leaders in Northern Ireland on their views on a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights; and if he will make a statement. [84294]

Mr Swire: Our policy is that any legislation arising from the work of the Commission examining the case for a UK Bill of Rights would provide a vehicle in

which to implement any rights specific to Northern Ireland if these can be agreed by the political parties there.

The hon. Gentleman may be referring to a letter sent by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), to the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and others in early September about institutional changes. I have placed a copy in the Library.

Legal Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83893]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the years preceding the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010. Since that date no organisation receiving funding from my Department has brought legal proceedings against us.

Departmental Communication

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) the non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84211]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office currently has a small communications team made up of the Head of Communications, one Senior Information Officer and one Information Officer. The Senior Information Officer post is currently vacant and is due to be filled soon. There are no other communications officers within the Department.

Of the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Northern Ireland Office, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission employs a Press and Public Affairs Officer.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83802]

Mr Paterson: Neither my Department, nor the public bodies for which I am responsible, purchase liquefied eggs.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83803]

Mr Paterson: My Department and the public bodies for which I am responsible, aim to promote Northern Ireland produce. All meat, fish and vegetables used by my Department are locally sourced where possible, depending on seasonal availability.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83804]

Mr Paterson: All food and catering procurement by my Department, and the public bodies for which I am responsible is undertaken in line with Government's procurement policy and buying standards.

Foreign Relations: Republic of Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 16W, on foreign relations: Republic of Ireland, what subjects were discussed at his meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin on 27 October 2011. [82419]

Mr Paterson: When the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), met officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin on 27 October a wide range of issues was discussed, including economic conditions and north-south co-operation in a number of fields.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84209]

Mr Paterson: My Department does not use postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail.

TRANSPORT

A338: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the roadworks on the A338 will be completed. [84074]

Norman Baker: The A338 is a local authority road and is not maintained by central Government or the Highways Agency. Any questions relating to roadworks on it should be directed towards the relevant local highway authority—either Dorset county council or Bournemouth borough council, depending on exactly which section of the road is in question.

Aviation: Scotland

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on Scottish air services. [81209]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has discussed Scottish air services with the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and the Government fully recognise the importance of air services between Scotland and the rest of the UK. It is the Government's intention to develop an aviation policy framework which supports economic growth and seeks to create the right conditions for regional airports, and those in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to flourish.

The Government published a scoping document that asked a series of questions, including on regional airports, to stimulate discussion on aviation policy. The responses we have received to the scoping document will help to inform the development of a draft framework, which we intend to publish for full public consultation in March 2012.

Cycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps her Department has taken to encourage more people to use bicycles. [82963]

Norman Baker: The Government made clear their support for cycling in their coalition agreement. On 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 88-94WS, I announced the allocation of £155.5 million to 37 authorities in England to deliver packages of measures that support economic growth and cut carbon emissions as part of the £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund, and 38 out of the 39 successful bids included a cycling element. I will announce the remaining allocations for Tranche 2 and large projects in summer 2012. We are also committed to supporting Bikeability cycle training for the remainder of this Parliament, helping to give children the skills and confidence to cycle on today's roads. In addition, I have established a cycling forum which will, among other things, be looking at barriers that prevent people taking up cycling. We want to get more people cycling, more safely, more often.

M27

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration has been given to *(a)* improving and *(b)* tolling the A/M27 road. [84444]

Mike Penning: I recognise the importance of the A27 Chichester bypass scheme, which was one of the 14 Highways Agency major schemes identified at the 2010 spending review for construction post 2015, subject to the outcome of statutory processes, value for money and affordability. There are no current plans to develop other major improvement schemes for the A27 or the M27 at this time.

We are happy to look at schemes which would fund new capacity and improve the UK's road infrastructure through tolling—and would be willing to discuss any local proposals. However, we currently have no plans to toll the A27 or M27.

Manhole Covers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to introduce composite manhole covers to reduce *(a)* the incidence of scrap metal theft and *(b)* the risk of injury to cyclists. [83957]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 30 November 2011]:* The majority of manhole covers on the highway network are the responsibility of utility companies, with a small percentage under the ownership of local highway authorities. As such it would not be the responsibility of the Department for Transport to introduce composite manhole covers.

We are, however, aware that local authorities across England are experiencing an increased incidence of theft of metal drain-hole covers and iron railings. These thefts not only present a risk to public safety but are also causing authorities to divert funding from other services. Many authorities who have experienced the theft of manhole covers are now replacing these with covers which do not have any scrap value in order to prevent further thefts.

More generally, the Department has worked with the Institute of Highways and Incorporated Engineers (IHIE) to develop Guidelines for Motorcycling. Section 6.3.16 of the guide encourages designers and maintenance engineers to ensure that covers should not be positioned in the carriageway so as to impose a hazard to motorcyclists. The guide may be viewed on the IHIE website at:

www.motorcyclingguidelines.org.uk

In addition, the British and European Standard (prEN124) on "gully tops and manhole tops for vehicular and pedestrian areas" has been going through revision. One of the areas being considered as part of this work is the in-service skid slip resistance of the covers. Consideration is also being given to an enhanced skid slip resistance value to improve consistency between the road surface and service covers placed in the highway.

Railways: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the amount of investment rolling stock companies have made in the railway industry in each of the last 10 years. [R] [83166]

Mrs Villiers: The Government do not hold this information. However, the following table provides a rough estimate based on new passenger rolling stock procurement. This estimate will not reflect investment in the purchase of non-passenger rolling stock equipment and ongoing refurbishment of the owners vehicles. For more accurate information, the hon. Gentleman should please contact the rolling stock companies.

Rough estimate of investment for new vehicles

	£ million
2001	720
2002	870
2003	320

Rough estimate of investment for new vehicles

	£ million
2004	130
2005	235
2006	385
2007	305
2008	490
2009	160
2010	55
2011	0

Road Works

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to remove the requirement for Secretary of State approval of street works permit schemes under the Traffic Management Act 2004. [84341]

Norman Baker: I propose to consult on this shortly.

TREASURY

Boilers: Government Assistance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he and his officials have had any discussions with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the re-introduction of a boiler scrappage scheme in the last six months. [83668]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury Ministers and officials frequently discuss a range of issues with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, including policies for energy efficiency and to address fuel poverty.

Capital Allowances

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 621W, on capital allowances, for what reasons the information requested is not available. [84446]

Mr Gauke: The information is unavailable because HMRC's databases do not hold details on which industrial sector some businesses claiming capital allowances belong to and answering the question using data where industrial sector information for businesses is available would involve disproportionate costs.

HMRC has published information about capital allowances due for companies for 2005-6 to 2009-10 for some industrial sectors at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11-10.pdf

However capital allowances can also be claimed by unincorporated businesses assessed for income tax and equivalent information has not been published for them.

Calculating the tax savings from capital allowances claims by businesses would involve disproportionate costs. This is because it would be necessary to work out the extent to which there would have otherwise been extra taxable profits for each business if the capital allowances had not been claimed and the extra amounts of tax that would have been payable on the extra taxable profits.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 621W, on capital allowances, what information his Department collects on the financial benefits companies receive due to manufacturing capital investment allowances. [84449]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has published information about capital allowances due for companies for 2005-6 to 2009-10 for some industrial sectors at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11-10.pdf

Calculating the tax savings from capital allowances claims by companies in the manufacturing sector would involve disproportionate costs. This is because it would be necessary to work out the extent to which there would have otherwise been extra taxable profits for each company in the manufacturing sector if the capital allowances had not been claimed and the extra amounts of tax that would have been payable on the extra taxable profits.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83774]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury's current catering sub-contractor requires that its suppliers be accredited Assured Food Standards (AFS) and that monthly product ranges must include AFS red tractor certified products appropriate to the season.

Economic and Monetary Union

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's Euro Preparations Unit in each year from its inception to its closure. [81369]

Mr Hoban: The cost of the Euro Preparations Unit in each year since its inception is difficult to ascertain, since much of the expenditure has been grouped within other departmental costs. An estimate of spending in those years that separate data were available is set out in the following table:

	Cost (£)
2001-02	1,706,252.95
2002-03	1,713,510.77
2003-04	771,743.53
2004-05	512,147.69
2005-06	45,691.88
2006-07	78,040.45
2007-08	29,620.18
2008-09	4,498.09
Total	4,861,505.54

Public Sector: Pensions

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings to the public purse have arisen as a consequence of changing the indexation of public service pensions from the retail prices index to the

consumer prices index; and how much of any such savings in the case of pensioners over the age of 70 years is due to the exclusion of the guaranteed minimum pension element of their pension in the indexation. [83341]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-44W. This includes a table with an estimate of savings on unfunded public service pensions due to the decision to use the consumer prices index (CPI) as the Government's preferred measure for uprating the additional state pension and public service pensions.

The indexation of guaranteed minimum pensions (GMPs) in payment depends upon individual circumstances and can be paid by either public service schemes or through the state pension, or both. HM Treasury does not have the information to calculate the savings on public service pensions expenditure that specifically relate to the GMP elements of those pensions.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Affordable Warmth element of the Energy Company Obligation is included in the Control framework for Department of Energy and Climate Change levy-funded spending. [84028]

Miss Chloe Smith: The control framework for DECC levy-funded spending covers DECC's policies that entail levy-funded spending and that are or likely to be classified by the Office of National Statistics as imputed taxation and public spending for national accounts purposes.

If other DECC policies are classified as tax and spend then they will fall within the control framework. The Energy Company Obligation, or its Affordable Warmth Component, would be included if classified as such. Classification will take place in due course.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to delay the introduction of new rules for furnished holiday lettings beyond April 2012. [84156]

Mr Gauke: No. The changes to the rules for furnished holiday lettings (FHLs) were legislated in the Finance Act 2011. The first changes took effect from April 2011 (removal of loss relief against general income) and there are further changes from April 2012 (increase in qualifying thresholds).

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters he has received on funding for civil society organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73993]

Miss Chloe Smith: The figure in the format requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following table shows the number of letters received from MPs on the subject of charities (also including voluntary and community groups and social enterprises). It excludes letters on issues relating to taxation.

	Month	*Relevant items of correspondence*
2010	June	2
	July	2
	August	4
	September	1
	October	2
	November	1
	December	2
2011	January	10
	February	6
	March	5
	May	1
	July	2
	October	1

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Preston

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new units of social housing were built or acquired by social landlords in Preston constituency in each of the last five years. [83870]

Andrew Stunell: Statistics on the number of additional affordable homes that were built or acquired by social landlords are not collected by constituency. Figures for Preston local authority are available on the Department's website in Live Table 1008 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Council Tax Benefits

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the new burdens doctrine will apply to council tax benefit successor schemes. [84355]

Robert Neill: In line with the new burdens doctrine, the Government will work with local authorities to assess the net impact on local government of localisation of support for council tax, including the transitional costs of moving to the new arrangements.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80205]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government incurred no design costs on *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings and *(d)* stationery in 2010-11. The Department ran one advertising campaign—Fire Kills—that aimed to encourage people to test their smoke alarm regularly in order to prevent fatalities and injuries from fire in the home. The creative work associated with this, including all the advertising agency costs associated with the campaign, was £42,300.

To assist the hon. Member's scrutiny of Whitehall spending, I would note that the previous Administration spent £22,000 of taxpayers' money on home information packs branding; £21,090 on Homebuy scheme branding; £15,000 on the branding the Sustainable Communities summit (subsequently cancelled); £10,000 on branding the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit quango; £25,000 on Community Builders branding; £7,260 on Code for Sustainable Homes branding; £33,400 on Cleaner Safer Greener Communities branding; £3,520 on re-branding Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services as the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser; £3,830 on a logo for the Department and Communities and Local Government followed by spending £24,765 on renaming it Communities and Local Government; and £1,371 on re-branding the 'Office of the Deputy Prime Minister' to the 'Deputy Prime Minister's Office'.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department has awarded to G4S since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [83920]

Robert Neill: The Department has not awarded any contracts to G4S since May 2010.

Housing

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were started in England in the 12 months to *(a)* September 2011 and *(b)* September 2010. [R] [82699]

Grant Shapps: Figures for new build housing starts in England since 1990 are published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Live Table 213 and can be found at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the planning implications of total housing need at the upper and lower limits of the Office for National Statistics-projected population by 2050. [83909]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 59-60W.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many housing starts on site there were in the London Borough of Southwark in the six months to September 2011; [84157]

(2) how many housing starts on site were delivered in Camberwell and Peckham constituency in the six months to September 2011. [84293]

Andrew Stunell: House building starts data for the London borough of Southwark, as reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government, are not available as the authority has not provided data returns for this period.

Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide resources to local authorities to compensate for rent loss from properties under the Right to Buy following the reform of the Housing Revenue Account. [83231]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* We are committed to ensuring that every additional home sold under right to buy is replaced by a new home, and receipts from sales will be recycled towards the cost of replacement. The receipt needed to fund replacement will only be a fraction of the cost of a new home. This is because most of the funding for new affordable rented homes comes from borrowing by the provider against the future rental income stream; and, in many cases, cross-subsidy from the landlord's own resources, including land.

Our proposal is that right to buy receipts will first be used to meet debt on additional properties sold, then will meet Treasury and council forecast receipts, and that the balance will be available for investment in replacement properties. Our initial modelling shows that the expected receipts will provide a sufficient contribution to the cost of replacement homes. We will set out detailed proposals in the right to buy consultation.

We are committed to letting councils keep the proportion of the receipt needed to cover the housing debt associated with additional right to buy sales. This will ensure that the right to buy reforms do not have an impact on the viability of self-financing or independent social landlords.

Housing Revenue Accounts: Southwark

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assumptions concerning the rental income of the London Borough of Southwark were used to calculate the final housing revenue account debt settlement; [84063]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the cost of rent for a two-bedroom council home in the London Borough of Southwark as a result of self-financing in 2012-13. [84064]

Andrew Stunell: There is no change to social rent policy as a result of self-financing. Self-financing valuations and settlement payments are based on the continuation of the social rent policy established by the previous Government in 2001. It assumes convergence of council rents and housing association rents in 2015-16, subject to a maximum annual rent rise for an individual tenant of the retail prices index + 0.5% + £2 per week.

Local Government Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 440W, on urban areas: Government assistance, how much funding has been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* disbursed to local authorities in respect of (i) the £10 million Recovery Fund and (ii) the £20 million High Street Support scheme to date. [81232]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* My Department was responsible for three funds that were set up in the immediate aftermath of the riots—the Homelessness Support scheme that helped those who were made homeless; the Recovery Fund, which covered the clean-up costs of local authorities; and the High Street Support scheme, which compensates councils for measures to help local businesses.

Under these schemes, local councils have been in the lead in providing support to local firms and local residents. Central Government subsequently is reimbursing local councils for their costs retrospectively (in a similar way to how the Bellwin scheme has operated historically). As made clear when the schemes were launched, Central Government is not funding affected firms or residents directly.

Homelessness Support scheme

The closing date for the receipt of local authority claims for the Homelessness Support scheme was 30 November. So far the Department has received claims from four local authorities totalling over £100,000 which are still being assessed. Payments to local authorities will be made shortly.

The Homelessness Support scheme met the immediate costs of re-housing those made homeless by the disturbances up to a maximum payment threshold of £5,000 per household, with discretion applied for exceptional costs. As an illustration, as at the end of September in Haringey, 54 properties were affected and 58 households were displaced as a result of the disturbances. All households made homeless who approached local authorities for assistance have been found alternative accommodation.

DCLG is providing a further £35,000 for a dedicated support service in Haringey for the households who were displaced by disturbances. Those affected faced a particularly complex pattern of needs (housing, clothing, furniture, transport, psychological support).

Recovery scheme

The closing date for the receipt of local authority claims for the Recovery scheme was 7 November. Claims from 25 local authorities are currently being assessed. On 16 November, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), wrote to council leaders of the areas affected by disturbances, stating that, even though the deadline for submitting claims under this scheme had passed, he would be happy to accept claims until 23 November, as he was keen to ensure that councils are reimbursed for all expenses incurred as a result of disturbances. Over £500,000 has already been paid to local authorities from the Recovery Fund in the first batch of payments, and more will follow in the next few weeks.

High Street Support scheme

The deadline for claims to be submitted under the High Street Support scheme was extended to 31 January 2012, at the request of local authorities, to allow them to use funds to support local high streets in the run up to the busy Christmas and sales period. But, as examples:

By 20 October, Haringey council had provided £165,000 in hardship grants to almost 100 local businesses. The council estimates that it may make a final claim of around £2 million to the High Street Support scheme.

By 27 October, Croydon council had provided £249,000 in hardship grants to businesses and £137,000 in business rates hardship relief. These sums form part of the council's £882,000 local investment so far through the High Street Support scheme. The council granted £1,000 to any business with a crime reference number, without the business having to ask for the grant. The police made direct contact with the council, which then made payment without the need of a formal claim to be made by the affected business.

I understand Manchester has spent £181,000 under the High Street Support scheme on promotional activities in the riot-affected areas. These activities will aim to encourage Manchester residents to come to the city centre to shop, eat and socialise. As part of this, the council co-ordinated a very successful three-week "I love Manchester" campaign, which was grass-roots driven and became a symbol of the city's resilience and message to the world that the people of Manchester are proud of their city and united against criminality and antisocial behaviour. 180 people registered to volunteer in the future.

Salford council is investing £98,000 of its High Street Support scheme funding to boost pride in Salford city centre. Funding is being used to create a welcoming environment for shoppers by repairing damage and promoting the "Salford Open for Business" programme aimed at increasing footfall in Salford shopping city.

Ealing council set aside a £250,000 fund to help areas affected by the riots. Small independent traders, which suffered damage from vandals and looters, have been given £1,200 to help them pay for things like new glazing and repairs.

Wolverhampton council has funded £110,000 on security blinds; £45,000 on promotions for city centre ("700 reasons to shop in Wolverhampton" campaign—referring to its 700 shops). They have also supported radio coverage and competitions for independent traders.

As outlined in the written ministerial statement today, we will also address any loss of New Homes Bonus in areas affected by last summer's riots through riot recovery funds.

I commend the recommendation of the Interim report of the Riots Communities and Victims Panel that each local authority should identify an officer who can provide a knowledgeable single point of contact on financial recovery to local people and businesses affected by the riots.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect that the planned reform of business rate redistribution and local revenue fluctuations will have on local authority tax increment financing. [84290]

Robert Neill: Given that details of the local retention of business rates and tax increment financing have not been finalised, no quantitative assessment has been made of the interaction between the two.

The Government's consultation on the local retention of business rates set out two broad options to enable the implementation of tax increment finance, along with the potential benefits and risks in relation to the wider local retention proposals. This consultation closed on 24 October.

Local Government: Procurement

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities and their finance departments on payment of suppliers. [82303]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Andrew Stephenson) on 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 17W.

Non-Domestic Rates

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on social care provision of the Government's proposals for the localisation of National Non-Domestic Rates; and if he will make a statement. [83176]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Our proposals for business rates retention will ensure a stable starting point so that no authority is worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the new scheme. They also propose further protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain. Our proposals will provide opportunities for authorities to benefit financially through delivering economic growth in their areas. We believe that our plans will give local councils new incentives to promote local economic growth, which will help grow the overall level of business rate receipts. We will set out the Government's response to its consultation on business rates retention shortly.

Planning Permission

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to publish in full the consultation responses his Department has received on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [82433]

Greg Clark: As I set out in my written ministerial statement of 19 October, *Official Report*, column 65WS, having fully considered the suggestions made, the Government will then publish the revised text taking into account representations that have been made and a summary of responses to the consultation.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the contribution of the right hon. Lord Shutt of Greetland of 17 October 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 139-40, on the Localism Bill, when his Department plans to issue a revised version of Circular 03/09: Cost Awards in Appeals and Other Planning Proceedings; when he intends to consult on requiring departure applications to have compulsory pre-application consultation with the local community; and if he will make a statement. [82457]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* We are currently reviewing what changes will be needed to planning documents following commencement of the planning provisions in the Localism Act 2011.

In addition, questions 4(a) and 4(b) to the consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework asked what light-touch guidance should accompany the new framework, and what organisations are best placed to provide it. We are now considering the responses to that consultation.

Rented Housing: Southwark

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the merits of taking steps to mitigate the effect of the level of the retail prices index on rent levels for local authority tenants in the London Borough of Southwark. [84062]

Andrew Stunell: No such assessment has been made in respect of the London borough of Southwark. Under existing social rent policy, to protect tenants from large annual rent rises there is a limit on actual rent increases for all individual local authority tenants of retail prices index inflation + 0.5% + £2. This rent policy was introduced under the previous Administration.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to facilitate greater freedom for local housing authorities to set allocations and qualifications criteria for social housing in respect of *(a)* low-paid working families, *(b)* those with a strong local link and *(c)* those with a record of community activity; and if he will make a statement. [83335]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 28 November 2011]:* The Localism Act 2011 gives back to local authorities the freedom to manage their own housing waiting lists. Local authorities will be able to decide who should qualify for social housing in their area, and to develop solutions which make best use of limited stock. This would include disqualifying applicants who do not have a strong local link with the area, if the local authority chose to do so.

Local authorities already have flexibility within the allocation legislation to include their own local policy priorities within their allocation scheme. We will shortly be publishing for consultation new statutory guidance to local authorities which encourages them to take advantage of this flexibility to give greater priority to families in low paid work or to those who otherwise contribute to their communities.

Travellers: Community Relations

Dr Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made on developing a national strategy for Roma integration under the EU framework. [84158]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers my noble Friend, Baroness Hanham gave to the noble Lord Avebury on 14 June 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA177 and 24 October 2011, *Official Report, House of* Lords, column WA116. We plan to publish later this year a progress report on the

work of the Ministerial Working Group on Preventing and Tackling Inequalities Experienced by Gypsies and Travellers.

Dr Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on developing a national Roma integration strategy. [84159]

Andrew Stunell: Ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government consulted the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on the UK's policy approach to negotiations for the EU Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting on Roma inclusion, held on 19 May 2011. DCLG Ministers have had no further discussions on Roma integration with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Executive has responsibility for this issue in Northern Ireland.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Voluntary Work

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the merits of creating and developing skills banks in the arts sector to encourage finance and legal professionals to volunteer their services on an ad hoc basis. [83013]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England's plan for 2011-15 sets out key priorities including: promoting greater collaboration between organisations to increase efficiency and innovation; strengthening business models in the arts; and building a network of arts leaders who value sharing knowledge and skills.

I have noted with interest models such as the Cranfield Trust, Orange's 'Do Some Good' initiative and Business in the Community's 'Business Connectors' programme, all of which contain principles which can be replicated in the arts.

Coroner For Treasure

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department and the Ministry of Justice have discussed the sharing of administrative support by the Coroner for Treasure and the Chief Coroner; and if he will make a statement; [84059]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Ministry of Justice on the funding of the post of Coroner for Treasure; and if he will make a statement. [84166]

Mr Vaizey: This Department discussed the funding of the post of Coroner for Treasure with the Ministry of Justice as part of implementation of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. We considered various options to reduce the funding needed for the Coroner for Treasure post but were unable to secure funding for this post and informed interested parties of this on 17 November.

This Department has not discussed with the Ministry of Justice the sharing of administrative support by the Coroner for Treasure and the Chief Coroner.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many current treasure cases have been awaiting a verdict for over six months; and if he will make a statement. [84060]

Mr Vaizey: The British Museum, who act as the Secretariat to the Treasure Valuation Committee, and administer cases of potential Treasure reported to coroners, currently has 27 treasure cases that have been awaiting a coroner verdict for over six months.

Sports: Facilities

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* tennis facilities, *(b)* bowling facilities, *(c)* gymnasiums, sports halls and leisure centres, *(d)* swimming pools, *(e)* athletic stadiums and *(f)* ski slopes he estimates will be operational in (i) Liverpool, Walton constituency, (ii) Merseyside and (iii) England in each of the next four years. [84076]

Hugh Robertson: Neither the Department nor Sport England has collated this information. Sports and recreation facilities are delivered by local authorities, and any opening or closure of such a facility is a matter for the local authority concerned. However, there is national planning policy in place covering sports and recreation facilities. This policy looks to local council planning to protect such facilities needed by the local community. The National Planning Policy Framework will simplify the existing suite of planning policy documents and be localist in its approach. The draft framework, which was recently open to consultation, can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/

Telephones: Unsolicited Goods and Services

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to prevent unsolicited calls being made to people who have subscribed to the Telephone Preference Service. [84279]

Mr Vaizey: Telephone Preference Service (TPS) registered consumers are protected from unsolicited marketing calls through the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) 2003. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has enforcement responsibility for the TPS and considers complaints about breaches. In May, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) increased the ICO's powers in relation to the PECR, as part of revisions to the EU e-privacy directive enabling the ICO to issue a fine of up to £500,000 for the most serious breaches of the regulations. In addition, DCMS is discussing the effectiveness of the TPS with Ofcom, who are responsible for the contract, to ensure that consumers remain effectively protected and improvements are made where necessary.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Babar Ahmad

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Attorney-General whether the decision not to prosecute Babar Ahmad in the UK was made after the Crown Prosecution Service had seen all of the evidence obtained by *(a)* the Metropolitan Police Service and *(b)* other authorities in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [84305]

The Attorney-General: A small number of documents seized by the Metropolitan police were submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for advice in 2004. The domestic prosecutor was asked to advise if any of these potentially fell within Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000. On the material provided there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. At the time this advice was given, domestic prosecutors were aware of the nature of the evidence in the possession of the US, but the entirety of the evidence was never subject to review in this country as it forms part of the case built by the US. The documents submitted to the CPS, even if they had amounted to an offence under Section 58, amounted to only a small fraction of the criminality alleged against Babar Ahmad by the US.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Green Deal

16. **Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department has received on his proposals for implementation of the green deal. [83978]

Gregory Barker: Our proposals were formally launched in our consultation document on 23 November, and the consultation period will close on 18 January.

It is therefore still an early point in the process, but we look forward to receiving responses over the coming weeks.

Durban Climate Change Conference

18. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress has been made on achieving an agreement on climate finance for the Durban climate change conference; and if he will make a statement. [83980]

Chris Huhne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinnell) today.

Domestic Energy Costs

19. **Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to assist households with their energy costs. [83982]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Members for Edinburgh South (Ian Murray) and for Telford (David Wright), today.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his priorities are for the international climate change negotiations. [83965]

Chris Huhne: The Government are committed to making progress at Durban on climate finance, adaptation, forests, technology and measuring and reporting emissions. We want to make progress towards a single legally binding instrument which commits all major economies to binding targets and, recognising that the emissions reduction pledges on the table so far are collectively not ambitious enough, make progress in reaching a common understanding on the size of this gap and how we can close it.

Combined Heat and Power: EU Action

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential impact on renewables of providing priority grid access and dispatch for electricity produced from combined heat and power generators as proposed by the draft EU Energy Efficiency Directive; and if he will make a statement. [83564]

Gregory Barker: The current draft text of the Directive requires the provision of priority or guaranteed access to the grid of electricity from high efficiency cogeneration, and the provision of priority dispatch of electricity from high efficiency cogeneration subject to requirements relating to the maintenance of the reliability and safety of the grid. We do not believe that these proposals in the draft EU Energy Efficiency Directive should have an adverse impact on renewable generation.

We already provide guaranteed access in Great Britain through a market-based approach for those large scale renewable and combined heat and power generating stations which are connected to the grid. As regards priority dispatch in Great Britain, we also have a market-based approach where dispatch depends on the generator meeting a market price. Where it is necessary to prevent access on occasion in order to ensure the reliability and safety of the grid system, our market arrangements determine which generator reduces its output, and these generators are compensated. It is usually most cost effective for conventional generation to reduce its output.

Electricity: Meters

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the Smart Metering Installation Code of Practice to be published. [84036]

Charles Hendry: Electricity and gas suppliers have already developed a draft Smart Metering Installation Code of Practice, which they published for consultation in August 2011. They are now considering responses. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has consulted on the draft licence conditions that will formally underpin an industry Code, and will publish its response in the new year. The consultation proposed that energy suppliers should be required to submit a Code of Practice to the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) for approval within one month of the new licence conditions taking effect.

Energy Supply: Planning Permission

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he proposes that responsibility of energy-related planning applications will transfer from the Independent Planning Commission to Ministers. [83845]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), intends to commence the sections of the Localism Act 2011 in April 2012. From this point major infrastructure projects will be decided by democratically elected Ministers, within a clear policy framework provided by national policy statements, and on the basis of recommendations made by the new major infrastructure planning unit,

Energy: Billing

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Health the potential health effects on customers of an energy company failing to resolve its billing complaints within an acceptable timeframe. [84250]

Gregory Barker: The Government are fully aware of potential health impacts of those living in cold, damp homes which may arise if someone is unable to heat their home to an adequate standard. Officials in both Departments are in contact on this and continue to work on shared policies.

Energy: Housing

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce household energy demand. [83960]

Gregory Barker: Energy efficiency is key to managing demand. The Green Deal is set to transform the energy efficiency of British homes from 2012, and the roll-out of smart meters will help empower millions of customers to make informed choices about their energy use.

Energy: Meters

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 299, on annual energy statement, what assessment he has made of the effect on annual energy bills of the Government's smart metering roll-out programme. [83865]

Charles Hendry: We expect consumers to benefit from lower energy bills as a result of the smart meters rollout. This benefit is driven by consumers using energy more efficiently and by suppliers passing through net cost savings. For example, suppliers will be able to greatly reduce the number of premises they visit. We have assessed the price and bill impacts of the rollout for each year up to 2030; the updated impact assessment, published in August 2011, estimates that the smart meter rollout will reduce the average household electricity and gas bill by £22 in 2020 and by £42 in 2030.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of households in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England were in fuel poverty in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009; what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2010, (B) 2011 and (C) 2012; what representations he has received on this issue since June 2011; from whom these representations were received; and if he will make a statement. [R] [84550]

Gregory Barker: DECC published data for 2006, 2008 and 2009 at local authority and parliamentary constituency level, and the number and proportions of households in fuel poverty are shown in the following table. For 2007 only a national figure is available.

Number and proportion of households in fuel poverty

	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*	
	Number	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*	*Number*	*Proportion (%)*
(a) Southend West	3,000	8	n/a	n/a	5,000	12	7,000	1.8
(b) Essex	59,000	9	n/a	n/a	82,000	12	116,000	16
(c) England	2,432,000	12	2,819,000	13	3,335,000	16	3,964,000	18

n/a = Not available.

Projections are made two years in advance of the data, at a national level only. These show that around 4.0 million households are projected to be fuel poor in England in 2010 and 4.1 million households in 2011.

Ministerial colleagues and I have regular meetings with a range of stakeholders to discuss fuel poverty.

Fuels: Prices

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average monthly fuel bill for a pensioner in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit in 2011. [84137]

Charles Hendry: Precise data on monthly fuel bills of pensioners in receipt of pension credit is not available. The Living Costs and Food survey, run by the Office for National Statistics, reports expenditure data for the year 2010 by age of household reference person. This suggests that average monthly household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels was as follows, based on the age of the household reference person:

	£
50 to 64	102.30
65 to 74	95.30
75 and over	88.40

Green Deal Scheme

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of the green deal on the existing market for energy efficiency products. [84017]

Gregory Barker: The green deal will open up the energy efficiency market to new sources of finance. Our assessment shows that the green deal could double the number of jobs in the insulation industry, supporting at least 65,000 jobs by 2015.

Further detail can be found in the green deal impact assessment.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he plans to announce the interest rate for green deal products. [84018]

Gregory Barker: Our approach to the green deal has been to establish a clear regulatory framework which will support the development of a private sector market in the provision and financing of energy efficiency measures. The interest rate for green deals will therefore be determined by the private sector market.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Treasury on standardising the rate of VAT on products included in the green deal. [84019]

Gregory Barker: The Department has regular discussions with HM Treasury over a range of issues relating to the green deal.

Taxation is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the structural obligations and liabilities placed on builders by the green deal. [84376]

Gregory Barker: The green deal consultation document sets out our proposals for oversight and redress in relation to installers under the green deal. These were developed in close collaboration with the green deal Installer Fora which are composed of key industry trade bodies.

Heating Oil

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote competition in the heating oil distribution market. [83981]

Charles Hendry: Last winter, I asked the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to bring forward its Off-Grid Domestic Energy Market study. Published on 18 October 2011, the study concluded that competition in the heating oil sector is generally working well. It reported that most consumers had a good choice of four or more suppliers and that barriers to new market entrants are low in most areas. In areas where potential mergers have threatened competition, the OFT has sought divestments to maintain the pre-merger levels of competition. We remain vigilant to ensure that the heating fuels markets function effectively for consumers.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total capital cost was of the UK's currently operational nuclear power plants; and what the average cost per MWh of the output was of these plants over their lifetime. [84426]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold data on the capital costs of existing nuclear power plants in the UK. Information on generation costs is a matter for the operators of the nuclear power stations.

Planning Permission

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what he proposes will happen to planning applications currently being processed by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) which remain uncompleted on the IPC's dissolution. [83844]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The Localism Act 2011 provides for the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and the return of responsibility for taking decisions to democratically elected Ministers. Section 129 of the Act empowers the Secretary of State to make direction with regard to the handling of applications on or after the abolition date for the Infrastructure Planning Commission, and this power will be used to ensure applications transfer seamlessly on the day that the Infrastructure Planning Commission is abolished.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84191]

Gregory Barker: Information on the use of postcodes other than for the postage of mail is not held centrally within the Department. However it is known that postcodes are used by statisticians in the Department to allocate energy consumption, and associated emissions, to geographical areas.

The results of this analysis are published as National and Official Statistics.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the reasons are for his decision to reduce the level of feed-in tariffs for aggregators on 31 March 2012. [83477]

Gregory Barker: The current consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) seeks views on a proposal for new multi-installation tariff rates for aggregated solar PV projects. This proposal is based on evidence from the comprehensive review of FITs which suggested that the economies of scale associated with aggregated projects mean that a lower tariff is needed to deliver the target rate of return of 5%. The consultation proposes that the multi-installation tariff rate would apply to all new solar PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 1 April 2012. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 23 December 2011.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether contracts agreed and submitted prior to the 12 December 2011 deadline for feed-in tariff applications will be honoured at the rate of 43 pence per kilowatt hour. [84016]

Gregory Barker: Our consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV) proposes that new tariffs will be implemented from 1 April 2012 but will apply to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after a proposed "reference date" of 12 December 2011. For the majority of solar PV installations, the eligibility date will be the date on which a valid application is received by the FITs licensee, normally the applicant's electricity supplier.

The proposals are designed to strike a balance between the need for quick action and the desire to allow people an opportunity to finish work that is well underway. The proposed six-week period will allow many prospective generators who have made a financial commitment to installing PV (for example, paying a deposit) to do this. We will consider all representations made during the consultation, including those related to the proposed reference date.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the average annual income of a household in receipt of the feed-in tariff. [84133]

Gregory Barker: This information is not held by the Department.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties have feed-in tariff installations in each London borough. [84402]

Gregory Barker: This information is not held by the Department.

However, as of 30 November, the Ofgem Central FITs Register shows a total of 3,250 installations in receipt of feed-in tariffs across all London boroughs.

Solar Power

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage community projects and local authorities to make use of solar photovoltaics. [83977]

Gregory Barker: The latest consultation on feed-in tariffs states that the Government are considering whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to benefit from FITs. The next consultation will also seek views on how we define community schemes.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the proposed new multi-installation tariff rates for aggregated solar photovoltaic schemes is set at 80% of the standard tariffs for individual installations. [83323]

Gregory Barker: The multi-installation tariff rates are based on evidence from the comprehensive review which suggested that the economies of scale associated with aggregated projects mean that a lower tariff is necessary to deliver the target rate of return of 5%. We have considered this evidence along with the possible impact of the proposed new requirements on energy efficiency on aggregated projects. On this basis, we consider that a multi-installation rate which is set at 80% of the proposed standard tariffs for individual installations is justified (where that would result in a tariff that is no lower than the marginal cost of renewables).

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he gave to the potential effects on *(a)* confidence in the solar industry and *(b)* investment in major future energy initiatives of his decision to reduce the feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaics from 12 December 2011. [83454]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV), available at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

estimates that new solar PV installations will continue to come forward under the proposed changes to FITs for solar PV. The impact assessment does not estimate the specific impact of the proposed changes, or the potential new business opportunities arising from the consultation proposals on energy efficiency, on the UK solar industry.

Current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the around 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched, and the proposed new tariffs are intended to ensure that returns go back to this level.

As with all DECC policy proposals, we have taken into account their potential perception by industry and investors. Our commitment to delivering clarity and longevity is one of the reasons that we will be introducing the electricity market reform to provide investors with a stable and credible long-term policy framework to encourage investment.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the *(a)* Home Affairs and *(b)* Economic Affairs Cabinet sub-committees considered the effect on employment in the solar industry of a reduction in the feed-in tariff for new solar PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December 2011. [84030]

Gregory Barker: In line with the constitutional convention of collective decision-making, and section 2 of the Ministerial Code, the Government do not disclose details of the internal process through which decisions are taken.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), who has responsibility for the feed-in tariff proposals, sits on both the Economic Affairs and Home Affairs Cabinet Committees, where a wide range of issues are discussed.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties have feed-in tariff solar photovoltaic installations in each London borough. [84401]

Gregory Barker: This information is not held by the Department.

However, as of 30 November, the Ofgem Central FITs Register shows a total of 3,223 solar photovoltaic installations in receipt of feed-in tariffs across all London boroughs.

Wind Power

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in implementing the Government's policy on wind farms. [84295]

Charles Hendry: The Renewable Energy Roadmap (published in July 2011) sets out a targeted plan of actions for eight key technologies, including onshore and offshore wind, in order to meet our 15% renewable energy target. The Roadmap includes illustrative "central ranges" for these key technologies and whilst they do not represent technology specific targets or the level of our ambition, they do show what could be deployed by 2020. We are making progress on the actions in the Roadmap to remove non-financial barriers—including reform of the planning system, and working with aviation and wind stakeholders to develop and implement mitigation of wind farm interference with aviation radar.

The Government are committed to continuing support for wind technologies through the renewables obligation (RO) to help achieve our challenging deployment goals. On 20 October, DECC published a consultation on proposals for RO support levels for large-scale renewable electricity generation, including from onshore and offshore wind, for the period 2013-17[1]. We are targeting support at the most cost effective of these technologies, and in the case of onshore wind farms in particular, a proposed 10% reduction in the level of support aims to deter poorly sited projects. The RO proposals will help secure billions of pounds of private sector investment in the UK economy.

Good progress has been made on deployment—we currently have 4 gigawatts (GW) of onshore wind capacity in operation and the existing pipeline contains an additional 11GW. When taken together, this would contribute a significant proportion of the central range for onshore wind deployment by 2020.

In addition, the UK is the world leader for offshore wind power, with over 1.5GW installed capacity, around 4GW post-consent and some 2GW in the planning system demonstrating that good progress is being made towards meeting our central projections for this technology.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

JUSTICE

Free Schools: Planning Permission

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which Department would receive any income arising from free schools being established at *(a)* Balham youth court, *(b)* Haringey magistrates court, *(c)* Mid-Sussex magistrates court and *(d)* Sutton Coldfield magistrates court; [84162]

(2) whether *(a)* Balham Youth Court, *(b)* Haringey magistrates court, *(c)* Mid-Sussex magistrates court and *(d)* Sutton Coldfield magistrates court will be available for (i) sale, (ii) rent or (iii) free as potential sites for free schools. [84163]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice would receive a capital receipt if the sales of *(a)* Balham youth court, *(b)* Haringey magistrates court, *(c)* Mid-Sussex magistrates court and *(d)* Sutton Coldfield magistrates court are completed. These courts are currently being offered for sale and the Ministry of Justice has agreed with the Department for Education that they may offer them as potential sites for free schools.

HM Prison Birmingham: Pensions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the costs of pensions were added to the public sector bid in respect of the recent tendering process for HM Prison Birmingham. [84734]

Mr Blunt: Yes, the costs of providing pensions were added to the public sector bid.

Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign national offenders who have been *(a)* subject to proceedings for being an illegal immigrant or *(b)* seeking asylum have (i) received criminal convictions and (ii) been in receipt of a custodial sentence in each of the last five years; [84417]

(2) how many foreign national offenders who have been *(a)* subject to proceedings for being an illegal immigrant or *(b)* seeking asylum have been convicted of (i) a violent offence and (ii) a sexual offence in each of the last five years. [84418]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify from these centrally held data whether the offender was a foreign national, has been subject to proceedings for being an illegal immigrant, or has been seeking asylum.

Prisoners' Release: Lie Detectors

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many sex offenders have had a polygraph condition imposed as part of their release licence in each of the last five years; [84408]

(2) how many released offenders have undergone a polygraph session as a result of the polygraph pilot; and how many polygraph sessions have taken place in each month that the pilot has been operational. [84409]

Mr Blunt: Sections 28 to 30 of the Offender Management Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) enabled a pilot of mandatory polygraph testing to take place covering offenders released on licence to addresses in the east and west midlands regions, after serving prison sentences of 12 months or more for committing specified sexual offences. The pilot began in January 2009 and ended October 2011. During this period, 650 sexual offenders were released with a licence condition requiring them to undertake polygraph testing.

599 of the 650 attended at least one polygraph session during this period, the first test being scheduled 10-12 weeks after release. A polygraph session was scheduled at not less than every six months for the duration of the licence and pilot.

The following table provides details of the testing figures for the first two financial years of the pilot and for the year to October 2011 when testing ended. During this period, 1,290 polygraph sessions took place.

The discrepancy between offenders released with a polygraph condition (650) and those attending at least one session (599) are accounted for, in the main, by the offender being recalled before their scheduled first test.

Period	*Number of tests*
2009-10	346
2010-11	608
April-October 2011	336
Total	1,290

The results of the pilot are now subject to evaluation, with a view to determining whether mandatory polygraph testing is a useful additional tool in the risk management of sexual offenders. In accordance with the provisions in the 2007 Act, an affirmative resolution of each House of Parliament would be needed before mandatory polygraph testing could be extended to sexual offenders released on licence throughout England and Wales.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have been stabbed during the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [84737]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) do not record data in the requested form. However, NOMS do record and publish statistics on assaults on staff which include assaults on prison officers. The statistics show the number of incidents in which staff have been involved, but do not include the number of individual injuries received by staff or the treatment they received. They do include figures for assaults by type of injury received. Figures for staff and prisoner injuries have been collated in the statistics.

The National Offender Management Service publishes annual Safety in Custody statistics on the Ministry of Justice website. Statistics on prisoner on officer assault incidents for 2001 to 2010 can be found at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/safety-in-custody.htm

Prisons: Private Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who bears the cost of the private sector mobilisation process prior to the assumption of responsibility for operation of a prison by a private sector provider. [84735]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice bears the cost of mobilisation and transition. However, the costs are assimilated in the contract price. The costs of mobilisation and transition are not paid until after full commencement of the services.

Probation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* the full list of probation functions and *(b)* the list of core probation services is; and which of these have been subjected to marketisation. [84161]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows.

(a) The full list of probation functions is covered by the following service specifications, published as part of the NOMS Directory of Services at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/noms/noms-directory-of-services-and-specifications.htm

Bail accommodation service

Bail services

Court work other than assessments and reports

Victim liaison

Approved premises—Public protection and regimes

Approved premises—Catering and domestic arrangements

Assessment and reports pre-sentence

Manage the sentence for a community order or suspended sentence order

Manage the custodial sentence—Manage the sentence pre and post release from custody

Manage the custodial sentence—Deliver supervision on licence

Deliver supervision requirement

Deliver accredited programmes

Deliver curfew requirement

Support delivery of alcohol treatment requirement

Support delivery of drug rehabilitation requirement

Support delivery of mental health treatment requirement

Deliver residence requirement

Deliver prohibited activity requirement

Deliver exclusion requirement

Deliver senior attendance centre requirement

Rehabilitation services—In the community

Rehabilitation services—Deliver activity requirement

Unpaid work/Community payback

(b) There is currently no official list of 'core probation services.' The Government will consider this as part of the ongoing probation review.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service and Community Payback are currently the only probation functions that have been, or are being, put to competition on a national basis by NOMS. NOMS does not keep records of competitive activity undertaken by probation trusts.

The probation review announced on 13 July 2011 is developing options for probation reform. All the options being considered include scope for a much greater level of competition in probation services. We plan to consult on our proposals in the new year.

Reoffenders: Alternatives to Prosecution

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders subject to out-of-court disposals had previous criminal convictions in each of the last five years. [84413]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of offenders receiving a reprimand, warning or caution, in England and Wales in the years 2006 to 2010, by the number of previous convictions. Figures for the previous criminal histories for offenders receiving other types of out-of-court disposal are not available.

These figures relate to separate cautioning occasions; where an offender was cautioned on the same occasion for several offences that occasion has been counted once in the table. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Offenders receiving a reprimand, warning or caution by number of previous convictions and year— England and Wales

Number of offenders

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
0	279,148	284,759	252,547	218,566	182,325
1-2	41,244	45,931	45,081	41,197	37,062
3-6	22,811	24,976	24,794	22,471	20,002
7-10	8,714	9,491	9,549	8,392	7,592
11-14	4,458	4,993	4,886	4,471	3,977
15+	6,404	7,269	7,500	6,766	5,976
Total	362,779	377,419	344,357	301,863	256,934

Note:
These figures cover offenders cautioned for indictable offences and certain summary offences that are recorded by the police (they exclude a range of less serious summary offences such as television licence evasion, speeding and vehicle tax offences).

Suicide: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the age of victims of suicide in Pendle constituency in the last 10 years. [83874]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not held centrally. Coroners make annual returns on their verdicts, including suicide verdicts, but this information does not contain the level of detail requested. The Coroner for East Lancashire has provided details in the following table of the number of suicide verdicts in his district over the last 10 years but to obtain the address and age of the deceased would be at disproportionate cost as every suicide verdict would have to be interrogated.

	Suicide verdicts for East Lancashire coroner district (number)
2001	17
2002	13
2003	18
2004	18
2005	22
2006	15
2007	15
2008	20
2009	27
2010	14

Youth Custody

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the under-18 secure estate capacity in England and Wales was in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11. [83097]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the average number of beds commissioned in each sector of the juvenile secure estate in each year from 2000-01 to 2010-11 together with the total number for each year.

These data are from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refer to secure training centres (STCs), secure children's homes (SCHs) and places commissioned by the YJB in young offender institutions (YOIs). 2000-01 is the earliest date from which data are available that gives information on all secure establishments in the youth estate for this age group.

The YJB monitors population levels and adjusts the numbers of beds it commissions accordingly. As a result decommissioning activity will often follow decreases in the number of under 18s in secure accommodation. The Government published their Secure Estate Strategy consultation on 19 July 2011. The consultation closed on 11 October 2011 and the Youth Justice Board is now carefully considering the responses received. The strategy proposes to reduce the number of beds commissioned across the secure estate in order to ensure supply meets demand. The new strategy is an opportunity to reconfigure the estate to improve provision and better meet young people's needs.

	Secure children's homes	*Secure training centres*	*Places commissioned in young offender institutions*	*Total*
2000-01	262	130	2,868	3,260
2001-02	262	130	2,981	3,373

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental

bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82551]

Mr Maude: Department for Communities and Local Government Internal Audit is contracted to provide the internal audit service for the Cabinet Office and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

During the period November 2010 to November 2011, Internal Audit has undertaken 30 audits. This figure includes four audits undertaken in the National School of Government (NSG) which since 1 April 2011 has been part of the Cabinet Office.

The following audits have been undertaken in the NDPBs:

Civil Service Commission (NDPB—created November 2011): one audit

Capacitybuilders (NDPB—ceased to exist April 2011): four audits

Commission for the Compact (NDPB—ceased to exist April 2011): one audit.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible; [83787]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs served on the Downing street estate. [83736]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The standards for animal welfare for whole eggs and imported liquefied eggs are set out in the Government Buying Standards on Food and Catering at:

http://sd.defra.gov.uk/advice/public/buying/products/food/

These are mandatory for central Government and their Executive agencies.

Information in relation to the Cabinet Office's commitment to the Government Buying Standards on Food and Catering can be found on its website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/food-procurement-reporting

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83788]

(2) what proportion of food served on the Downing street estate was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83735]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Information for 2010-11 on the proportion of food procured by the Department and public bodies, which was produced to UK production standards or equivalent, can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/food-procurement-reporting

Information for 2011-12 will be published after April 2012.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering; [83789]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that all food served on the Downing street estate meets the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83737]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Information in relation to the Government Buying Standards published in June 2011 about sourcing food, subject to no overall increase in costs, meeting UK or equivalent standards of production can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/food-procurement-reporting

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which objectives for the Work Programme the Transparency Indicators announced in the Open Service White Paper will show as being met or not met. [84436]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

In line with the Business Plan reporting requirement, performance data on the Work programme will be published on the Department's Business Plan Transparency webpage as the data become available. In addition, performance against the first indicator will be included as part of the Quarterly Data Summary reporting process.

The Department will publish performance data on the following Work programme indicators:

the proportion of participants who have achieved a Job Outcome payment at 12 months on the programme (to be published quarterly from November 2012);

proportion of customers who have achieved a Job Outcome payment at 24 months on the programme (to be published quarterly from November 2013);

the average cost per Job Outcome for participants who have been on the programme for 24 months (to be published quarterly from November 2013); and

the average benefit savings for individuals who have been on the programme for 24 months (to be published quarterly from February 2014).

The data will also be published on the No. 10 website.

Procurement

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to procurement policy Action Note 3/11, whether his Department has considered the value of the fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory principles in relation to licensing. [83878]

Mr Maude: Following the outcome of the UK Government Open Standards Survey, a public consultation will begin early in 2012 regarding open standards in Government IT. Fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) principles will be considered as part of this consultation.

Personal Income: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum household income was in each (i) ward and (ii) parliamentary constituency in Liverpool in the most recent period for which figures are available. [84083]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) maximum and (b) minimum household income was in each (i) ward and (ii) parliamentary constituency in Liverpool in the most recent period for which figures are available. (84083)

The information requested is not available.

Public Bodies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what risk registers are held by his Department and the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [83423]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 28 November 2011]:* Within the Cabinet Office each business group is accountable for managing their own risks and are responsible for both maintaining their associated risk registers and for ensuring that their business plans and all projects, programmes or activities which deliver departmental strategic or corporate objectives, include the review of associated risks and that any mitigating actions are implemented.

Risk registers are kept and maintained, as is appropriate, at working level. A list of all risk registers used within the Department and its NDPBs is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office also co-ordinate a number of cross-government risk assessments to identify and assess a range of risks for the UK. These inform wider cross-Government policy making, including contingency planning and national security.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has awarded to Serco since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each such contract. [83051]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not awarded any contract to Serco since May 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Cattle

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many investigations into allegations of *(a)* acts of cruelty to cattle and *(b)* cattle being kept in conditions which neglect their welfare have been carried out in each region of England and Wales in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011 to date; and if she will make a statement. [82532]

Mr Paice: As these are allegations, the investigation would be unplanned.

(i) In 2010-11 52 investigations were carried out.

(ii) From April 2011 to date, 22 investigations have been carried out.

We are, however, unable to identify investigations by individual animal species, therefore these figures will not just apply to cattle.

The following table shows routine planned welfare inspections carried out on cattle in each region of England and Wales.

Welfare inspections by region (cattle)

Country	*Region*	*2010-11*	*April to October 2011*
England		3,744	1,738
	East Midlands	224	92
	North East	148	30
	North West	364	194
	South East	360	164
	South West	1,992	1,012
	West Midlands	384	131
	Yorks and Humber	272	115
Wales		601	296
	North Wales	271	70
	South Wales	329	226

Notes:

1. Vetnet Codes: Beef—Breeding, Cattle—Growing, Dairy Cattle and Calves have been included in the data.
2. Data have been provided at an inspection level and includes all inspections carried out for cattle regardless of the inspection result.
3. Please be aware that multiple inspections can be carried out at a visit, e.g. a visit where dairy cattle and calves are inspected will be counted as two inspections.
4. You will note that the number of inspections has decreased from last year. This is due to inspections now being carried out on a risk basis.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cambridge of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 468W, on wild animals in circuses, from whom her Department has sought legal advice on the use of wild animals in circuses; and if she will place such advice in the Library. [82562]

Mr Paice: The Government have already indicated they wish to exercise their right to legal professional privilege in respect of this information, 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 240W. That position is unchanged.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110621/text/110621w0004.htm#11062168000154

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities she expects to participate in enforcement of a licensing system on the use of wild animals in circuses. [82679]

Mr Paice: None. We expect the licensing scheme for wild animals in circuses to be enforced through inspections by DEFRA appointed inspectors.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert) of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 468, who has offered legal advice to her Department on the use of wild animals in circuses; and if she will place in the Library a copy of any such advice received by her Department. [82763]

Mr Paice: Since 23 June 2011, DEFRA has been sent legal advice by the RSPCA and was referred to an article in an online legal journal that can be found at:

http://webjcli.ncl.ac.uk/2011/issue4/pdf/rook4.pdf

The RSPCA advice has not been published and it may be subject to legal privilege. The release of this unpublished legal advice would need to be considered by the RSPCA.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on inclusion of welfare standards for all species of wild animal available for use in circuses around the world in any future licensing regime. [82785]

Mr Paice: In preparing proposals for licensing, the Government are considering what welfare standards should apply to all species, and which species have specific additional requirements. These will take into account international best practice.

Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the criteria that would have to be met during the biodiversity offset pilot for the scheme to be rolled out further. [84386]

Richard Benyon: The biodiversity offsets pilots are being set up specifically in order to enable us to assess the effectiveness of the approach. The pilots will run for two years and there will be an independent evaluation of the process. A decision will then be made on whether, and if so how, to support greater use of offsetting across England.

Common Agricultural Policy

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect the farming industry in negotiations on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy. [83682]

Mr Paice: The European Commission's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) proposals were formally released on 12 October 2011 and are currently being considered by member states in the Agriculture Council, as well as by the European Parliament for the first time, under co-decision.

We will continue to negotiate hard in Agriculture Council for a fair outcome for UK farmers and taxpayers. It is important that the UK (and EU) agriculture industry is well positioned to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the future. We will therefore seek to ensure that a reformed CAP encourages the innovation, sustainable actions and market orientation that are essential to ensuring the long term competitiveness and resilience of the agriculture industry. The UK is also committed to fighting for a CAP that is significantly simpler overall for farmers, administrators and paying agencies.

DEFRA Ministers are in regular discussions with EU ministerial colleagues over the reform of the CAP. We have also been discussing the potential consequences of the proposals for all parts of the UK with Ministers for the devolved Administrations.

DEFRA will consult interested stakeholders in England to gather evidence and better understand how the Commission's proposals will affect different sectors of the industry. We will work closely with the devolved Administrations, who will also consult their stakeholders, and seek to influence the detail of the legislation so that it reflects conditions and needs across the UK.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any local authority staff have been injured by dangerous dogs in the course of their duties since June 2010. [81001]

Mr Paice: This information is not held centrally by DEFRA.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible. [83722]

Mr Paice: We will be making changes to the Government Buying Standards mandatory criteria which apply to fresh, in-shell eggs to ensure that eggs produced in conventional cages—an illegal production system across the EU after 2012—will not be used in any form whether this is fresh, powdered or liquid.

Farmers: Supermarkets

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on introducing minimum standards in contracts between dairy farmers and retailers; and if she will make a statement. [77181]

Mr Paice: The EU Commission's proposals for new rules on contractual relations in the dairy sector would allow member states to decide whether to make written contracts compulsory for the delivery of raw milk from producers to processors of raw milk. There is no proposal to extend that to contracts with retailers.

Food Security

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications for food security in 2050 of each extreme of the population range projection made by the Office for National Statistics for that year. [80636]

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the implications for food security in 2050 of each extreme of the population range projection made by the Office for National Statistics for that year; [81276]

(2) what assessment she has made of food security in 2050 at the upper and lower limits of the population range currently projected by the Office for National Statistics. [83908]

Mr Paice: The Office for National Statistics produce population projections for the UK based on a set of demographic assumptions. Their principal projection for the UK in 2050 is 78.4 million. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward and the long-term figures should be treated with great caution.

Our food security depends on access to the world market, and our domestic food industry needs to be able to compete on the world stage. In a world where climate instability can disrupt patterns of production, food security cannot be delivered from a narrow, self-interested, national protectionist stance, or by recommending self-sufficiency.

Earlier this year the Government's Chief Scientist, Sir John Beddington, published a Foresight report into the Future of Food and Farming which looked at the challenges today and in the future. It explored how we can feed a global population of 9 billion by 2050 healthily and sustainably and identified hunger and environmental degradation as the key problems we face. The Foresight world population figures are derived from United Nations projections.

As an immediate response to the report, DEFRA have signed up to a Foresight Action Plan which will include:

championing an integrated approach to food security;

pressing for integration of agricultural GHGs into UNFCCC process;

taking forward Nagoya work on international biodiversity;

promoting the importance of sustainable intensification;

pressing for trade liberalisation and CAP/CFP reform;

showcasing what can be achieved on food waste reduction within the UK and share best practice; and

increasing the productivity and competitiveness of UK food and farming and ensure that agriculture and the food sector can contribute fully to the green economy.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Business

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to implement section 85(1) of the Climate Change Act 2008 on the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. [83494]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Lothian (Fiona O'Donnell), on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 556W.

National Parks: Public Consultation

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to national park authorities of consulting with local communities on arrangements for local governance structures in the latest period for which figures are available. [84431]

Richard Benyon: No central estimate has been made. Each National Park Authority consulted as it judged appropriate and met the costs from its existing budget. Those budgets are largely financed by unhypothecated grants from DEFRA.

Timber

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to make possession of illegally logged timber an offence across the supply chain; and if she will make a statement. [83608]

Mr Paice: We are committed to eliminating illegal timber from the UK market. We will therefore put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU illegal timber regulation in the United Kingdom by 3 March 2013 in accordance with the provisions of the regulation. The regulation prohibits the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market which will restrict its purchase, possession and sale down the supply chain. To ensure the traceability of timber products, those businesses trading in timber and timber products further down the supply chain will be obliged to keep records of their suppliers and customers. Implementation will include putting in place a robust and proportionate enforcement regime, including appropriate penalties.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 402W, whether any civil servants were present at the 2010 meeting between the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), Mr Adam Werritty and Mr Matthew Gould. [78778]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Secretary's report published on 18 October 2011.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 402W, whether any reports of the 2010 meeting between the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), Mr Adam Werritty and Mr Matthew Gould were forwarded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [78779]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence did not send a report of the meeting to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78871]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the Cabinet Secretary's report published on 18 October 2011, and to the answer I gave on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 518W.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of UK operations in Afghanistan was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [81544]

Mr Philip Hammond: The net additional cost of military operations in Afghanistan, rounded to the nearest £10 million, is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	220
2002-03	310
2003-04	50
2004-05	70
2005-06	200
2006-07	740
2007-08	1,500
2008-09	2,620
2009-10	3,820
2010-11	3,770

Our estimate for the net additional cost of Afghanistan in the current financial year (2011-12) is £4,030 million.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether each nation participating in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan has access to the Afghan Mission Network. [82690]

Mr Philip Hammond: An individual from any nation participating in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan is able, in principle, to access the Afghan Mission Network providing that they hold the correct security clearance.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 993W, on Air Force: military bases, what his Department's policy is on the taking of minutes of *(a)* meetings and *(b)* telephone calls between the Secretary of State and First Ministers of the devolved Administrations. [77316]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* Departmental practice on the minuting of discussions between the Secretary of State and First Ministers of the devolved Administrations is the same as that for interaction with any other individual(s). Minutes are only required if there are substantive agreements that need to be recorded and communicated to a wider audience, or which need to be kept as a public record. In detail, a record should be kept:

to account for expenditure or to record financial or other important decisions;

where information or a decision has to be passed to a wide audience;

or where the message is too detailed or complex to deliver verbally or may need to be studied carefully.

AWE Aldermaston: Planning Permission

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department expects to submit a planning application for the proposed Technology Development Centre at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston to the local planning authority; whether an environmental impact assessment will be prepared for the proposed development; and whether he plans to request a defence-exempt environmental impact assessment direction for the proposed development. [83601]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 30 November 2011]:* The planning application for the proposed Technology Development Centre was submitted to West Berkshire council on 25 November 2011. A Defence environmental impact assessment exemption direction was granted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), on 17 August 2011 so an environmental impact assessment will not be submitted. However, a defence-exempt environmental appraisal has been included with the planning application. This provides the majority of the information that would have been supplied with an environmental impact assessment; a small amount of information has, however, been omitted for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Conflict Prevention

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 7.4 of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy, whether he plans to publish a watchlist of fragile countries. [82354]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan) to my hon. Friend the Member for South West Devon (Mr Streeter), on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 273W.

Defence: Procurement

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* projected final cost, *(c)* expected timescales for delivery, *(d)* primary contractor and *(e)* identity of additional consortium members are in relation to the Soothsayer project. [81170]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The original approval for Soothsayer was £150 million. The contract was terminated by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on 24 June 2009. The final costs are being withheld as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. For delivery, prior to termination, the expected delivery date was April 2011. The prime contractor was Lockheed Martin Systems Integration and there was no consortium.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82996]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a central contract with Corporate Document Services (CDS) for the provision of printing services. The contract covers a range of printed material in both paper and other materials using all forms of printing methods and technology. The contract can be used for Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and other departmental printing requirements. Identifying specific types of order, as defined in the question, would require line by line examination of records. The volume of orders placed through the contract means that this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Orders placed through the CDS contract may include design work. Orders placed through the contract cover a variety of products; in addition to those products listed in the question, and among many others, the contract covers production of technical publications, periodicals, magazines, forms, business cards, CD/DVD duplication, signage, scanning and microfiche services and internet services.

The total cost of this contract between 1 May 2010 and 31 October 2011 was £11.78 million. This represents a reduction of almost £2 million from the contract's total cost over the previous 18-month period, 1 November 2008 to 30 April 2010, which was £13.56 million.

The Government's Central Office of Information (COI) have also managed some printing activity on the Department's behalf. Leaflets and posters printed through COI over the period requested have cost some £100,000.

On 31 May 2010, the Prime Minister wrote to all Government Departments with plans to open up Government data, with a specific commitment to publish Government expenditure over £25,000. This published information includes payments made to CDS and to COI for any services. For the MOD it can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModSpend/ModSpendOver25000DataFiles.htm

Departmental Written Questions

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many questions for written answer on a named day received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive response on the day that they were due for answer by each Minister in his Department since 11 May 2010. [84153]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received 1,444 questions for written answer on a named day from 11 May 2010 to 28 November 2011. Of these, 738 or 51%, received a substantive response on the day they were due for answer. All questions for written answer on a named day that are not answered by the MOD substantively on the day they are due for answer receive a holding response as a matter of course.

The information requested, broken down by each Minster in the MOD, is as follows:

Minister	*Number of questions received for written answer on a named day (11 May 2010 to 28 November 2011)*	*No. of questions receiving substantive response on day due for answer*	*Percentage*
Secretary of State	274	78	28
Minister of State for the Armed Forces	264	141	53
Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology	319	179	56
Minster for Defence Personnel Welfare and Veterans	527	291	55
Minster for International Security Strategy	60	49	82

The MOD shall be providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance at the end of the parliamentary Session. Statistics relating to the MOD's performance for the 2009-10 Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Ex-servicemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings he has had with veteran groups. [83134]

Mr Philip Hammond: While I have had no formal meetings with Veteran Groups to date, I have had the pleasure and honour of meeting veterans on 16 October at Royal Wootton Basset; on 13 November, Remembrance Sunday, at the Cenotaph; and on 20 November, in Paris at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ceremony.

Defence Ministers and officials meet regularly with Veteran Groups on a wide range of issues. We also work very closely with other Government Departments, devolved Administrations, and Voluntary Sector organisations to ensure that the needs and circumstances of the ex-Service

community are known with the aim of improving veterans' access to services and to assist with their transition to civilian life.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans has received meeting requests from *(a)* The Veterans Charity, *(b)* Veterans UK and *(c)* The Royal British Legion; [84165]

(2) how many times the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans has received meeting requests from Combat Stress since 11 May 2011; and how many of these requests have been fulfilled; [84381]

(3) how many times the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans has received meeting requests from the Falkland Veterans Foundation since 11 May 2011; and how many of these requests have been fulfilled; [84382]

(4) how many times the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans has received meeting requests from the Soldier's Charity since 11 May 2011; and how many of these requests have been fulfilled. [84383]

Mr Robathan: While we do not hold records of all meeting requests, I can confirm that I regularly meet representatives of charities which raise money for, and represent the interests of, current and former members of our armed forces and their families, either on a one to one basis or as part of wider forums, such as the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation or the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Welfare Conference.

Since May 2011, I am not aware that I have met representatives of the Veterans Charity or the Falkland Veterans Foundation. Veterans UK is the MOD's Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency (SPVA) online website. I regularly meet members of SPVA staff to discuss departmental issues.

Germany: Military Bases

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has held with the German Government concerning the NATO Status of Forces Agreement—SOFA—Supplementary Agreement. [83571]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not held any discussions with the German Government concerning the NATO SOFA Supplementary Agreement.

The previous Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), did write to his German counterpart at the time of the strategic defence and security review informing the German Government that we would be relocating British forces to the UK.

Ministerial Meetings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met (i) Mr Jon Moulton and (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (A) on his Department's premises and (B) elsewhere. [78857]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas), on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-6W.

Libya: Armed Conflict

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many air sorties were flown in each month of the Libya campaign to the end of October 2011. [82721]

Mr Philip Hammond: The approximate number of air sorties flown by the UK armed forces by month in support of operations in Libya is given in the following table:

	Number of Sorties
March 2011	180
April 2011	430
May 2011	440
June 2011	490
July 2011	510
August 2011	540
September 2011	390
October 2011	240

In addition, from 19 March to 31 October 2011, C130 and C-17 aircraft flew 25 operational sorties that landed in Libya; and, Lynx helicopters also flew 172 sorties in support of operations in Libya. Flights in support of Operation ELLAMY have also been flown to and from Italy and Cyprus but the information on these sorties is not held in the format requested.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he made of the satellite datalink capacity for communication between ISTAR assets during Operation Ellamy. [82757]

Mr Philip Hammond: In Operation Ellamy, effective information sharing was achieved via satellite communications. However, satellite datalink communication between ISTAR assets was not the primary means of supporting near-real time co-ordination and datasharing. Instead, ultra high frequency and very high frequency radios and military tactical datalinks were utilised to good effect.

Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* RAF and *(c)* Navy fixed wing aircraft are based in (i) the UK and (ii) Germany. [82968]

Peter Luff: Information on all in-service fixed wing aircraft based in the UK is shown in the following table. In-service aircraft include all bar those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Remotely piloted air systems and contractor owned fleets are not included.

Service	In-service fixed wing aircraft
Royal Navy	10
Army	11
RAF	696

There are no fixed wing aircraft based in Germany.

Navy: Standards

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the fighting effectiveness, efficiency and morale of the Royal Navy. [84445]

Peter Luff: The fighting effectiveness, efficiency and morale of the Naval Service is constantly monitored through an effective and well proven process, which identifies, assesses and manages any risks to the delivery of outputs and objectives, reporting, as appropriate, to the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), as Chairman of the Defence Board.

Rescue Services

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he has reached agreement with the Secretary of State for Transport on any reduction in the number of search and rescue bases; and where any such reduction will take place; [82371]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the timetable for the transfer of the Search and Rescue Service to his Department. [82372]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 52-53WS, by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening).

Submarines

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many submarines are available for operations or are on operations. [84443]

Peter Luff: The Naval Service has seven ship submersible nuclear and four ships submersible ballistic nuclear in various states of readiness for operational service.

Submarines: Decommissioning

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many submarines he expects to be transported from *(a)* Rosyth to Devonport and *(b)* Devonport to Rosyth by means of (i) towing, (ii) towing on a barge and (iii) heavy lift ship under his proposals for submarine dismantling. [82866]

Peter Luff: No decisions have been taken on where submarine dismantling will be undertaken but the Ministry of Defence has made proposals as part of the public consultation that is currently under way. The consultation documents are available at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DES/WhatWeDo/SDP

Under these proposals, radioactive materials would be removed from the submarines where they are stored at Devonport and Rosyth Dockyards. No transport of submarines from Rosyth to Devonport or vice versa would, therefore, be required.

Submarines: Training

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* the structure and *(b)* location is of the Submarine Sea Training Organisation. [84442]

Peter Luff: The Submarine Sea Training Organisation is part of Flag Officer Sea Training and is led by a Royal Navy Captain supported by eight functional areas responsible for the different elements associated with specialised training. Training is currently located in Faslane for the Vanguard class arid Astute class submarines, and Devonport for Trafalgar Class submarine.

Trident

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Trident nuclear weapon system and its successor was discussed by his predecessor at meetings on his visits to Washington on *(a)* 22 to 25 May 2011 and *(b)* 31 July to 3 August 2011. [80282]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 275W.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department is of deploying a *(a)* Desert Hawk, *(b)* Hermes 450 and *(c)* Reaper; how many people are needed to operate each such unmanned aerial vehicle; and if he will make a statement. [83404]

Peter Luff: The Desert Hawk, Hermes 450 and Reaper Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) were all purchased as urgent operational requirements. Total financial approval for delivering and supporting these UAS including deployment costs on operations is shown in the following table:

UAV type	Approval (£ million)
Desert Hawk	42
Hermes 450	181
Reaper	[1]506

[1] Includes funding to sustain the Reaper capability until 2015.

The Desert Hawk, Hermes 450 and Reaper UAS tactical capability is provided by a total of 290 personnel consisting of command, aircrew, technicians intelligence and support staff, split as follows;

UAV type	*Personnel numbers*
Desert Hawk	63
Hermes 450	74
Desert Hawk/Hermes 450[1]	38
Reaper	115
Total	290

[1] Combined staff covering exploitation, command and support functions.

Metal Theft

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with ministerial colleagues in the Home Office on protecting war memorials from metal thieves. [82855]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has no direct responsibility for this matter but supports any plan to protect the memory of those who have served and paid the ultimate price defending our country. It is appalling that memorials are being vandalised and violated in the manner reported.

I am aware that my ministerial colleagues in the Home Office have had a number of discussions with Ministers from other Government Departments to consider what approach should be taken to tackle metal theft.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Adam Werritty

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she, *(b)* officials of her Department and *(c)* special advisers in her Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on her Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78869]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department and special advisers have not met with Mr Adam Werritty since May 2010. Information on whether officials have met Mr Werritty is not held centrally.

Arrest Warrants

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for the surrender of an individual under a European Arrest Warrant were received by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in 2010-11. [79002]

Damian Green *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* In 2010-11, SOCA received 6,032 Part 1 European Arrest Warrant requests (relating to individuals who are in the UK) and 256 Part 3 warrants (relating to individuals wanted by the UK).

Member states will often issue an EAW to all other member states when the location of the individual sought is not known. The number of requests received, therefore, is not necessarily an indicator of those individuals being in the UK.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK nationals were extradited to another EU member state under a European arrest warrant in *(a)* 2004-5, *(b)* 2005-6, *(c)* 2006-07, *(d)* 2007-08, *(e)* 2008-09, *(f)* 2009-10 and *(g)* 2010-11. [84152]

Damian Green: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European arrest warrants (EAWs).

Since the introduction of the EAW in 2004 193 British nationals have been surrendered by the UK to another European Union member state under an EAW.

Due to the way data were recorded prior to 1 October 2008 it is not possible to provide data on the number of British nationals surrendered to each European Union member state prior to this date:

	British nationals surrendered
2004	5
2005	11
2006	26
2007	27
1 January 2008 to 30 September 2008	32

1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009	*British nationals surrendered*
Netherlands	2
Spain	1
Total	3

2009-10	*British nationals surrendered*
Belgium	1
Cyprus	3
France	5
Germany	2
Greece	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	4
Lithuania	1
Malta	1
Netherlands	2
Poland	8
Portugal	1
Spain	11
Total	41

2010-11	*British nationals surrendered*
Belgium	3
Czech Republic	1
France	2
Germany	7
Greece	8
Ireland	4
Malta	1
Netherlands	5
Poland	1
Spain	16
Total	48

Legal Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations that have received funding from her Department have brought legal proceedings against her Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether her Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83890]

Damian Green: Judicial review proceedings were brought in 2010 against the Secretary of State for the Home Department by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in respect of the 'Consolidated Guidance to Intelligence Officers and Service Personnel on the Detention and Interviewing of Detainees Overseas, and on the Passing and Receipt of Intelligence Relating to Detainees'. The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence were also defendants to these proceedings. The EHRC was unsuccessful in its action. The defendants applied for costs and the Administrative Court made a costs order against the EHRC. The defendants will shortly start the process of recovering their costs pursuant to the costs order.

Judicial review proceedings have been brought on two occasions by staff associations representing the interests of police officers, which are funded in part by the Secretary of State. In 2008 the Staff Side of the Police Negotiating Board (which includes the Police Federation for England and Wales, the Police Superintendents' Association for England and Wales and the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association) challenged a decision of the Secretary of State not to implement in full a pay award recommended by the board. The Staff Side's claim was unsuccessful. No application was made by the Secretary of State for costs. In 2009 the Police Federation for England and Wales challenged a decision of the Secretary of State to delay the implementation of new actuarial factors used to calculate lump sums payable as part of police officers' pensions. The Police Federation's claim succeeded.

Central records do not allow an electronic search to be conducted to establish whether a claimant was an 'organisation', as distinct from an 'individual' but, apart from the instances mentioned above, the Department is not aware of any other legal proceedings that have been brought against it in the last five years by other organisations which receive direct departmental funding towards their operational costs.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible. [83769]

Damian Green: The *(a)* Home Office and *(b)* the public bodies for which it is responsible do not directly contract for food supplies but procures catering services through wider facilities management or operating service contracts. As part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) led initiatives, we have begun work to establish the proportion of food already procured by our facilities management and operating service suppliers that meets buying standards for food and catering. We will continue to work with suppliers to gain accurate data and to identify what potential there is to increase this compliance.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83770]

(2) what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83771]

Damian Green: The *(a)* Home Office and *(b)* the public bodies for which it is responsible do not directly contract for food supplies but procures catering services through wider facilities management or operating service contracts. As part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) led initiatives, we have begun work to establish the proportion of food already procured by our facilities management and operating service suppliers that meets buying standards for food and catering. We will continue to work with suppliers to gain accurate data and to identify what potential there is to increase this compliance.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83917]

Damian Green: The policy of the Department is generally to seek the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review. Where the Department has sought to recover its costs and obtained a legal costs order then it would generally seek to enforce the order. Each case is assessed according to the individual circumstances and there may always be exceptions which warrant a different approach on the facts of a particular case.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what receptions and events have been hosted by her Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84244]

Damian Green: We do not hold central records of all receptions and events hosted by the Department.

Deportation: Offenders

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners have been *(a)* released and *(b)* deported since the introduction of deportation for foreign national prisoners on completion of their sentence. [79771]

Damian Green: The power to deport foreign nationals where their presence in the United Kingdom is not conducive to the public good came into force on 1 January 1973. The following table shows a breakdown of the foreign national offenders (FNO) released between March 2009 and April 2011. Data prior to 2009 are unreliable.

FNO releases

	Released by court	*Released by UKBA*	*Total*
2009	1,044	164	1,208
2010	1,137	118	1,255
2011	351	33	384

The following table shows deportations from 1991 to the second quarter of 2011.

FNO removals

	Number
1991	560
1992	640
1993	550
1994	320
1995	330
1996	370
1997	360
1998	345
1999[1]	375
2000[2]	—
2001	450
2002	404
2003	1,270
2004	1,660
2005	1,673
2006	2,396
2007	4,200
2008	5,395
2009	5,528
2010	5,342
2011 Q1	1,339
2011Q2	936

[1] Figures for 1991 to 1999 taken from Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 2001, page 95.
[2] Figures for 2000—no data available from any source.
Note:
No reliable data are available prior to 1991.

Detainees: Children

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish any agreement reached with Barnardo's concerning the detention of children and their families under immigration law. [77051]

Damian Green: Cedars, the pre-departure accommodation for families with children which I opened on 17 August, forms part of the new family returns process put in place to fulfil the Government's commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes.

Barnardo's provides welfare and support services at the accommodation to help families prepare for leaving the UK. The terms of the agreement to do so are commercially sensitive and are therefore not published.

Equality Act 2010: Legal Opinion

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal advice she has received on the applicability of the Equality Act 2010 to staff employed by the Police and Crime Commissioner after 15 November 2012. [82916]

Nick Herbert: Police and Crime Commissioners and their staff will be subject to all existing general legal requirements on public bodies, including the Equality Act 2010.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 amends the Equality Act to make Police and Crime Commissioners, and the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime, subject to the Equality Duty (paragraphs 380-383 of schedule 16 of the Act).

Firearms

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of criminal damage cases in England and Wales that have involved the use of firearms in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [83846]

Nick Herbert: The most recently available data are for 2009-10. In that year, the police recorded 4,085 offences of criminal damage which involved the use of a firearm. Of these, the vast majority involved the use of an air weapon, 3,646 offences, or 89% of the total.

Data for 2010-11 will be available in January 2012.

Homophobia

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homophobic incidents have been reported to the police *(a)* in Lancashire and *(b)* nationally in each year since 2005. [83901]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics.

Immigrants: Detainees

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the UK Border Agency has any plans to review its policy on the time of day at which it visits homes for the removal of failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants; [82091]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided to immigration officers undertaking home visits; [82092]

(3) whether guidance is provided to immigration officers on the time of day a visit should take place to a home where a child is resident. [82093]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has clear guidance on the considerations that need to be made when planning an enforcement visit, including the time the visit should take place.

Guidance for the timing of operational enforcement visits to residential addresses is set out in chapters 31, 45 and 61 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance which is available for public viewing on the UK Border Agency website at the link below:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Where enforcement action is being considered to ensure the return of a family with children, an individually tailored return plan will be referred to the independent Family Returns Panel. Enforcement visits will only take place when the Family Returns Panel has advised on the most appropriate time of day to secure the return of the family, while having regard to the welfare of the children.

The timing of visits for cases falling outside of the family returns process is determined and also recorded in the risk assessment that is carried out for each visit. Visits should not normally take place either very late at night or very early in the morning unless operational planning indicates that a visit would be frustrated if carried out at a different time.

All existing policy and guidance relating to the timing of enforcement visits is regularly reviewed as part of a programme of nationwide unannounced assurance currently being rolled out by the UK Border Agency's Professional Standards for Enforcement team (PSE).

Immigration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she uses for immigration files placed in the controlled archive. [81286]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The controlled archive is a hold for those cases where the case resolution directorate (CRD) had tried to establish contact with the applicant through the current set of processes and has been unsuccessful. All checks to establish the applicant's whereabouts have been made and all information on case information database (CID) for the applicant is correct.

When deciding whether to place a case file in the controlled archive, internal electronic records and the case papers must be checked thoroughly to ensure that all steps have been taken to contact the applicant. All cases are subjected to checks against watchlists and the police national computer before being placed in the controlled archive.

The UK Border Agency also has access to a number of further external databases including:

UK Visas Database
Voters registry
DVLA records
HM Revenue and Customs
Department for Work and Pensions
NHS Trace line

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often immigration cases in the controlled archive are checked; what databases are used to carry out such checks; and how many staff perform such checks. [81288]

Damian Green *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Case Assurance and Audit Unit are responsible for ongoing management of the controlled archive and active management of cases which could not be fully concluded due to a barrier, the unit consists of 126 staff.

Each case is reviewed on a six monthly basis and a range of internal Home Office and external databases are available.

The Controlled Archive is a hold for those cases where the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) had tried to establish contact with the applicant through the current set of processes and has been unsuccessful and all checks to establish the applicant's whereabouts have been made and all information on Case Information Database (CID) for the applicant is correct.

When deciding whether to place a case file in the Controlled Archive, electronic records (ASYS, CID), and the case papers must be checked thoroughly to ensure that all steps have been taken to contact the applicant. All cases are subjected to checks against the Police National computer and Warning Index before being placed in the controlled archive. The UK Border Agency also has access to a number of further external databases including:

UK Visas Database
Voters registry
DVLA records
HM Revenue and Customs
Department for Work and Pensions
NHS Trace line

Immigration Controls

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government plans to publish the response to her Department's consultation on reform of family migration. [84150]

Damian Green: The family migration consultation closed on 6 October 2011. It proposed new measures to tackle abuse, promote integration and reduce burdens on the taxpayer. The Government are considering the responses to the consultation and will publish their response in due course.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter dated 17 October 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr Zaid Khan. [83665]

Damian Green: A reply to the right hon. Member's letter was sent on 25 November 2011.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department will respond to correspondence from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 11 October 2011 and 7 November 2011 regarding a constituent, Hannes Turnbull. [83866]

Damian Green: A reply to the hon. Member's letter was sent on 24 November 2011.

National Policing Improvement Agency

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of abolishing the National Policing Improvement Agency and creating its successor bodies. [81256]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is working closely with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and others to ensure that the transition process and continuing functions are delivered within funding allocations.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the security of police IT of the abolition of the National Policing Improvement Agency. [81258]

Nick Herbert: Protection and availability of information within forces remains the responsibility of chief officers who are supported by a senior information risk owner (SIRO) within their force and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) SIRO for policing.

The police ICT programme, which is setting up the new police ICT company, is working to ensure the continuity and ongoing security of national ICT services.

Police

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which representative organisations within the police are recognised by her Department. [83664]

Nick Herbert: Police officers in England and Wales are represented by the following staff associations: the Police Federation of England and Wales, the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, and the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association. The federation is a statutory body and its constitution and proceedings are prescribed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in regulations. The other two staff associations are not statutory bodies but, along with the Federation, they are represented on the Police Negotiating Board for the United Kingdom and the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales. These boards make recommendations to the Secretary of State in relation to terms and conditions of service and other questions affecting the police, and are consulted on proposed regulations concerning those matters.

Police staff employed by police authorities in England and Wales are represented by the following trade unions: UNISON, Unite, GMB, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Prospect, and FDA. Recognition of trade unions for collective bargaining purposes is a matter for individual forces rather than the Home Office.

The Home Office meets with a range of other organisations which represent the needs and interests of police officers, including the national Diversity Staff Support Associations. The national Diversity Staff Support Associations (DSSAs) are entirely independent of Government and are no longer funded by the Home Office.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her proposed mayors for English cities will be able to influence the policing priorities of elected police commissioners. [82772]

Nick Herbert: A mayor would be on the Police and Crime Panel for their force area.

Police: Accountability

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what spending limits will be imposed on elections for police commissioners; [81871]

(2) whether elections to the post of police commissioner will be eligible for a free post election delivery. [81872]

Nick Herbert: The detail of spending limits, campaign regulation and provision will form part of the secondary legislation under section 58 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and will be laid before Parliament in the new year.

Police: Appeals

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure there is an independent appeal process for police staff that are dismissed after 15 November 2012. [82917]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office will work with relevant partners to agree an approach that continues to offer police staff appropriate protections.

Police: Firearms

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police forces in respect of the renewal of firearm licences for serving officers. [82915]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has not issued specific guidance on the renewal of firearms licences for serving police officers. A serving police officer, while in the line of duty, does not require a licence as they are exempt under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968. If serving police officers hold a prohibited weapon for private use, they would have to apply for, and renew, a licence in the same manner as a member of the general public.

Religiously Aggravated Offences

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of hate crime against Muslims have been reported to the police in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* nationally in each year since 2005. [83935]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics.

Rendition

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her policy is on the involvement of the security service in rendition operations; and if she will make a statement; [83409]

(2) whether *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have authorised the involvement of the security service in a rendition operation since May 2010; if so, on how many occasions such authorisation has been given; and if she will make a statement. [83410]

James Brokenshire: It is the policy of successive HM Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

The Government policy on rendition is absolutely clear: we do not render people in breach of our legal obligations. Should another state wish to transfer an individual through our territory or airspace, we would consider all the circumstances and only grant permission if we were satisfied that it would accord with our domestic law and international obligations.

We unreservedly condemn any practice of "extraordinary rendition" to torture. We will not co-operate in any transfer of an individual where we believe there is a real risk of torture to the individual concerned. The Government's clear policy is not to participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment for any purpose. The coalition agreement made absolutely clear that:

"we will never condone the use of torture".

Telephones: Nuisance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of complaints made to the police by recipients of unwelcome, nuisance or obscene telephone calls and text messages in each of the last five years. [83699]

Nick Herbert: From the information held by the Home Office, it is not possible to identify separately the number of complaints to the police involving incidents of unwelcome, nuisance or obscene telephone calls and text messages.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her assessment is of whether appropriate arrangements are in place with telecommunications operators to support police investigations into complaints, made from the recipients of unwelcome, nuisance or sexually suggestive and obscene telephone calls and text messages; [83716]

(2) what timeframe the police are expected to check telephone records from telecommunications providers as part of an investigation arising from complaints received from the recipients of unwelcome, nuisance or sexually suggestive and obscene telephone calls and text messages; [83717]

(3) *(a)* what steps her Department is taking and *(b)* what guidelines her Department issues to the police to ensure that complaints about (i) nuisance telephone calls and text messages and (ii) sexually suggestive and obscene telephone calls and text messages which are offensive to the recipient are investigated in a prompt manner. [83718]

Nick Herbert: While the Secretary of State for the Home Department has overall responsibility for ensuring the delivery of an efficient and effective police service in England and Wales and setting the national strategic direction of policing, Ministers have no role in operational policing decisions, which are for chief officers of each police force and their constables. The Home Office does not set central targets for police response times or assess support available during police investigations. Provisions to deal with harassment involving any form of data communication is also covered in the Association of Chief Police Officers' Practice Advice on Stalking and Harassment.

As part of the Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan, the Government launched a consultation on stalking on 14 November 2011 to ask for views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively. The consultation incorporates a number of issues, including current legislation, the effect of police information notices, search powers, the work of existing organisations and alternative measures to tackle stalking. The consultation will remain open until 5 February 2012.

The Home Office has been working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Ministry of Justice and a number of stalking charities to ensure that best practice guidance is disseminated through a series of regional events. This kind of help and improved training can ensure that stalking behaviour is identified early and acted upon.

EDUCATION

Academies: Primary Education

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 434W, on academies: primary education, what weight he gives to improved performance *(a)* against floor targets and *(b)* among pupils with special needs in determining whether to convert primary schools to academy status; and if he will make a statement. [79228]

Mr Gibb: Primary schools that are performing well are considered for conversion to academy status following an application being submitted to the Department by the school. In assessing a school's performance we consider the last three years exam results, comparisons both locally and nationally and the last Ofsted inspection.

Schools that are considered not to be performing well may still be considered for conversion to academy status provided they convert in an appropriate chain arrangement with a school that is performing well or a strong sponsor.

Each application will be considered on a case by case basis, with the decision being informed by factors set out in academies guidance published on the DfE website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/b0061257/how-to-become-an-academy

We will consider any other evidence of a school's performance which a school considers to be significant, including contextual factors such as the number of pupils on the school roll with special educational needs.

Academies: School Meals

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recourse is available to parents in situations where school meals served in new academies and free schools do not meet the standards expected of schools under the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) (England) Regulations 2006. [81135]

Mr Gibb: Academies are not bound by the school food regulations but the Government believe that academies, including free schools, will wish to continue to provide healthy school food. Parents who have concerns about the quality of the food being served in an academy or a free school should raise their concerns with the academy through its complaints procedure.

Capital Grant

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce how many local authorities will receive funding from his Department's capital grant to be allocated in the autumn; and if he will make a statement. [82895]

Mr Gibb: Applications to the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) are currently being assessed and we will announce those projects which will go forward in due course.

On 3 November, the Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove) announced an additional £500 million basic need funding. The funding, made available from within existing budgets, has been allocated to 111 local authorities that are experiencing the greatest pressure on school places.

The Department is hoping to announce future allocations of capital maintenance, devolved formula capital and basic need funding for local authorities and schools in due course.

Children in Care

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of whether local authorities are meeting the requirement to inform the relevant local authority when placing a looked after child in that authority's area; and if he will make a statement. [83347]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect information on how responsible local authorities are meeting the requirement to inform the receiving authority when placing a child. The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and statutory guidance make clear that before approving a decision to place the child outside the area of the responsible authority, the nominated officer must ensure that the local authority for the area in which the child is to be placed has been notified.

Children: Disability

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of schools returned information to the most recent School Census on whether a child in the school had a disability. [81543]

Sarah Teather: Information on pupils' disability was collected for the first time in the January 2011 School Census, on a voluntary basis. In the January 2011 School Census, 14.5% (3,132) of schools provided disability information for at least one pupil. However, for 906 of these schools the only valid disability code recorded was 'none'.

Children's Centres

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of Sure Start children's centres there will be in 2015. [82232]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities have a duty under section 5A (1) of the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure there are sufficient children's centres to meet local need. Many local authorities are reviewing their provision, and they must consult before making any significant changes. The situation changes frequently and it is not possible to predict accurately the position at the end of 2015. The Early Intervention Grant provides enough funding to retain a network of children's centres.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the number of designated children's centres following the introduction of revised Sure Start Statutory Guidance. [82626]

Sarah Teather: The Department will consult on revised statutory guidance on Sure Start children's centres in due course. However, the definition of a Sure Start children's centre is contained in section 5A of the Childcare Act 2006. The Act also requires local authorities to consult on any significant changes to their children's centre provision including proposals to close a centre. Local authorities are asked to keep the Sure Start ON database up to date with details of their children's centres and this information is available on the DirectGov website. The number of centres is only one measure of Sure Start provision, what matters most is the quality and range of services that families receive.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken in payment by results pilots to ensure children's centre providers are rewarded in line with the outcomes they achieve. [82628]

Sarah Teather: We have, in conjunction with the Children's Improvement Board, identified 26 trial areas that are developing payment by results approaches for children's centres in their areas. We want to use these payment-by-results trials to incentivise a focus on the core purpose of children's centres: to improve child development and school readiness among young children and to reduce inequalities.

Final decisions on the measures used for national payment by results will be informed by early learning from the trials. It is for local authorities to decide which measures to use for local payment of providers by results.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if his Department will define what constitutes significant change to a children's centre in the forthcoming revised Sure Start Statutory Guidance. [83192]

Sarah Teather: Section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006 makes clear that there must be consultation where there are significant changes proposed to children's centre provision in their area. This includes opening a new children's centre, making a significant change to the

range and nature of services provided through a children's centre, closing or merging centres, or reducing the services provided to such an extent that it no longer meets the statutory definition of a Sure Start Children's Centre.

The revised Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance will clarify the children's centres sufficiency duty and duties relevant to the core purpose of children's centres.

Class Sizes

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average class size has been in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each year since 2009. [82463]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The requested information is shown in the table.

Average class size state-funded primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 3]: Classes as taught[4]. England. January 2009-11

	State-funded primary schools[1, 2]	State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]
2009	26.2	20.6
2010	26.4	20.5
2011	26.6	20.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies (including all-through academies).
[4] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
Source:
School Census

The latest available information on class sizes is published in tables 7a-7c of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011' available at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Classroom Assistants: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teaching assistants are employed within *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London Borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford. [83143]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the number of teaching assistants (head count) employed in publicly funded schools within Greater London, the London borough of Havering local authority and Romford parliamentary constituency in England, November 2010.

Teaching assistants (head count) in publicly funded schools—November2010

	Teaching assistants
England	341,170
Greater London	46,860
London borough of Havering	1,680
Romford	580

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Workforce Census

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82550]

Tim Loughton: A total of 34[1] internal audit reports were issued in the Department in the last 12 months to 31 October 2011. This sum does not include those undertaken by non-departmental public bodies as those organisations are responsible for their own internal audit services and we do not hold that information centrally. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

[1] Cross-departmental reviews, which involve audit activity in multiple business areas are only counted once.

The total also excludes a large portion of other work undertaken by internal audit staff such as special investigations, consultancy and advice, nor does it reflect work in progress as at 31 October 2011.

To note, other Government Departments' internal audit functions may service their agencies and non-departmental public bodies and therefore may have access to this information.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80204]

Tim Loughton: To get information on how much this Department has spent on design for the areas mentioned above could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

On logos and branding campaigns, I refer you to my answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 261W, which details the breakdown of costs associated with the cost of rebranding the Department when it was established in May 2010. Since then, corporate design in areas *(a)* to *(e)* has been developed in-house at no additional cost. This includes the design of simple logos for our new Executive agencies, which will be used for building signage, recruitment advertising, stationery and campaigns.

Children's Services: Grants

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding from his Department *(a)* Barnardos, *(b)* the British Association for Adoption and Fostering and *(c)* the British Science Association (i) received in 2010-11 and (ii) will receive in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [83100]

Tim Loughton: *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Voluntary and Community Sector is key to the development and delivery of services for children, young people and families. This Department funds a number of voluntary sector organisations, both directly and indirectly through local authorities and schools.

Based on the information available in the Department's finance system the funding made available to the named organisations in financial year 2010-11 is given in the following table, together with the estimate of funding for financial year 2011-12.

	2010-11 (Funding in financial year)	£ 2011-12 (Estimated funding)
Barnardos	235,045	1,927,979
British Association for Adoption and Fostering	1,318,173	1,332,020
British Science Association	581,289	250,000

Telephone Services

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has allocated to each telephone helpline funded by his Department in 2011-12; what the purpose is of each such helpline; and how many calls each helpline received in each of the last five years. [77713]

Tim Loughton: The following table shows funding and calls for a number of telephone helplines which the Department has responsibility for. There may be other helplines which the Department has funded in recent years (e.g. temporary helplines) which are not included here. The funding and call numbers shown may be calculated using different criteria and are therefore not comparable.

Name of helpline	Calls per year	Funding for 2011-12 (£)
National DfE telephone inquiry line	2007-08: 144,269	206,701
	2008-09: 113,575	
	2009-10: 103,196	
	2010-11: 87,583	
	2011-12 (April to October): 46,947	
Contact A Family telephone helpline	2007-08: n/k	394,445
	2008-09: 8,968	
	2009-10: 8,226	
	2010-11: 10,070	
	2011-12 (April to October): 6,212	
Coram Children's Legal Centre telephone helpline	2007-08: 6,694	314,242
	2008-09: 6,092	
	2009-10: 9,007	
	2010-11: 11,296	
	2011-12 (April to October): 6,948	
Family Rights Group telephone helpline	2007-08: 5,009	273,455
	2008-09: 3,309	
	2009-10: 4,695	
	2010-11: 5,848	
	2011-12 (April to October): 3,276	
Family Lives (formerly Parentline Plus)	2007-08: 121,623	1,112,094
	2008-09: 66,123	
	2009-10: 66,474	
Telephone Helpline	2010-11: 61,169	
	2011-12 (April to October): 28,368	
Gingerbread telephone helpline	2007-08: 9,569	282,181
	2008-09: 5,182	
	2009-10: 5,677	
	2010-11: 7,762	
	2011-12 (April to October): 6,212	
Young Minds telephone helpline	2007-08: 2,319	358,217
	2008-09: 3,282	
	2009-10: 5,920	
	2010-11: 6,282	
	2011-12 (April to October): 3,528	
Advisory Centre for Education telephone helpline	2007-08: 18,296	[1]219,843
	2008-09: 7,296	
	2009-10: 10,875	
	2010-11: 11,813	
	2011-12 (April to September): 4,555	

[1] April to September 2011 only

Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effect of his proposals for education reforms on people experiencing social exclusion. [81934]

Mr Gibb: We expect that the reforms set out in the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' will ensure that our education system compares with the best in the world. The reforms will create a system in which schools are better able to raise standards and to narrow the attainment gap between rich and poor. We are clear that every child, regardless of their gender, race, disability or socio-economic background, must have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our policy to invigorate the school system with autonomous academies and free schools can be seen bearing fruit in the above-average results of the earliest sponsored academies, and in new admissions policy which encourages academies and free schools to prioritise those in receipt of pupil premium.

A full impact assessment and an equalities impact assessment were published together with the White Paper and are available in the House Libraries.

Education: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made in ensuring a more even distribution and allocation of funds for education services across the UK. [81979]

Mr Gibb: We recognise that the school funding system needs reform. Currently, schools facing similar challenges can receive very different levels of funding, for no reason other than historical decisions and an out of date assessment of need. Two schools with the same needs should receive a similar level of funding.

In July we published the second phase of consultation on school funding reform, 'A consultation on school funding: Proposals for a fairer system'. This consultation gave options and proposals for a fairer funding system that is easier for everyone to understand. We want schools to be funded on a much fairer and more transparent basis, and with schools receiving funding based on an up to date assessment of needs. The consultation closed on 11 October 2011. We will consider carefully the responses to the consultation before deciding how to proceed most appropriately towards a fairer and more transparent funding system.

Education: Pay Systems

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for consultation with service users as part of payment by results pilots. [82629]

Sarah Teather: We have, in conjunction with the Children's Improvement Board, identified 26 trial areas that are developing payment by results approaches for children's centres in their areas.

I expect all payment by results trials to put arrangements in place to consult service users. One of the criteria used in choosing the trial areas was a commitment to engaging key stakeholders, including parents and communities, in the process.

Employment: Young People

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he considered changing the curriculum to ensure the practical application of core subjects is taught for the purposes of increasing the employability of young people. [83702]

Mr Gibb: We aim to reform the national curriculum so that it properly reflects the body of essential knowledge in key subjects, leaving teachers greater flexibility to use their professional judgment to design wider school curricula that best meet the needs of their pupils. Teachers will be able to use this increased flexibility to teach pupils the practical application of both the core and other national curriculum subjects to help increase their employability. We will be announcing our initial proposals for the national curriculum next year, following which there will be full public consultation before final decisions are made.

English Baccalaureate

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the proportion of the statutory 25 hour school week which will be taken up by subjects that count towards the English baccalaureate. [82887]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* There are no statutory requirements around the minimum weekly hours which pupils should be taught. The lengths of pupils' morning and afternoon sessions are determined by schools. Maintained schools and non-maintained special schools have to carry out 360 sessions (190 days) per academic year.

Schools decide on the timetabling of their teaching, and their approach to the proportion of teaching time allocated to subjects within the English baccalaureate will vary. The English baccalaureate consists of five subject areas and pupils will take six or seven GCSEs to achieve it; the average number of GCSE (or equivalent) entries per pupil is 11.4.

Further Education: Finance

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to provide funding for further education colleges for pupils aged 16 to 18. [82360]

Mr Gibb: Further Education (FE) colleges received their funding allocations for the 2011/12 academic year at the end of March 2011. Indicative funding for FE colleges in the 2012-13 financial year will be set out in the YPLA's 16-19 Funding Statement, which will be published before Christmas this year. In line with the above timetable, final allocations for individual colleges for the 2012/13 academic year will be sent before the end of March 2012.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding bodies sponsored by his Department provide support for skills for post 16-year-olds in Birmingham; what the overall funding is for each such organisation in Birmingham or the West Midlands for each of the next five years; and what the national budget is for each organisation for each of the next five years. [82764]

Mr Gibb: The relevant bodies providing funding to support 16 to 19 education and training nationally, including Birmingham and the West Midlands, are the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA—a non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department) and the Skills Funding Agency (an NDPB housing the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), which provides Department for Education funding to support 16 to 18 apprenticeships and is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills).

The national budget for the YPLA in 2011-12, including pre-16 academies, is over £12.2 billion, as detailed in the Grant Letter issued by the Department on 6 September 2011 and available on the YPLA website. £48.4 million of this relates to administration funding for the organisation itself. The total budget for 2012-13 and beyond for the Education Funding Agency, which replaces the YPLA in April 2012, has yet to be decided. Details on the indicative funding for 16 to 19 participation in education

and training beyond 2011-12 (including 16 to 18 apprenticeships) will be provided in the YPLA's "16-19 Funding Statement" before Christmas. It is not possible to split out regional funding/budgets because the majority of funding is allocated directly to 16 to 19 providers rather than via regional bodies.

The answer to the right hon. Gentleman's question tabled to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 856-57W, gives detail in relation to the Skills Funding Agency, which predominantly supports and provides funding for adult (19+) education and training. The Skills Funding Agency budget highlighted in that reply does not include £799 million of Department for Education funding provided to the agency for 16 to 18 apprenticeships participation nationally, as detailed in the YPLA's "16-19 Funding Statement" published in December 2010 and available at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/YPLA/16-19_Funding_Statement.pdf

As with the YPLA, and as set out in the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 856-57W, it is not possible to split out the Skills Funding Agency's budget on a regional basis.

Mayors: Powers

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Government's consultation on mayoral powers, entitled What can a mayor do for your city? A consultation, and the Open Public Services White Paper, what assessment he has made of powers of his Department which could be devolved to elected mayors. [82586]

Sarah Teather: As the consultation paper makes clear, we are proposing to look to cities themselves to come forward with proposals for decentralising services and powers to the city mayor.

Music: Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of music *(a)* teachers and *(b)* lessons in primary and secondary schools in England in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [82615]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally for primary schools and is not available in the format requested for secondary schools.

There were 7,500 music teachers in service in publicly funded schools in England in November 2010. This data is taken from our wider subject level table about information for the number of teachers teaching curriculum subjects in all publicly funded secondary schools in November 2010 is provided in table 13 of the Statistical First Release 'School Workforce in England, November 2010'. This is available at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/allstatistics/a00196713/school-workforce-sfr

The average number of hours taught in music in a typical week to pupils in all publicly funded secondary schools in England was 92,700. Information for the average number of hours taught in a typical week to pupils in all publicly funded secondary schools by curriculum subjects is available in table 12 of the publication.

Information for the curriculum taught by teachers in secondary schools was not collected in 2009-10. Figures for 2011-12 from the November 2011 School Workforce Census are expected to become available in summer 2012.

The School Workforce Census was collected in full for the first time in November 2010. Previously qualifications and curriculum information was collected in the occasional sample survey 'Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS)'. This was last undertaken in 2007. The National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) carried out the research on behalf of the Department. The project gathered information from local authority maintained secondary schools for the qualifications of their teachers and the curriculum they delivered. The results of the survey are available from the following link:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-RR026

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the number of children studying music in primary and secondary schools does not fall; [82859]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that all children have the chance to *(a)* learn to play a musical instrument, *(b)* learn to read music and *(c)* receive a sound music education. [82861]

Mr Gibb: We published a National Plan for Music Education on 25 November, which puts the needs of the pupil at the heart of a new approach to music education. The Government are fully committed to high quality music education and this plan will ensure that every child should have opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument, learn to sing, have opportunities to play in ensembles and have access to musical progression routes regardless of where they live and their family circumstances.

The plan reinforces the existing curriculum requirement for pupils to read music notation through which pupils are taught notation in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions. This plan will make it easier for parents and schools to support children and young people to take part in music both in and out of school.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that enough music teachers are available so that every child has the chance to learn a musical instrument in school. [82860]

Mr Gibb: Specialist music teachers, together with primary classroom teachers, play a vital role in the quality of music education that children receive. The National Plan for Music Education has a number of specific proposals to improve the quality of music teaching These include a new add-on module to boost new teachers' skills and confidence in teaching music, and to improve their capacity to network within music education hubs.

In addition, I believe that the plan itself, and the role that new music education hubs will play, will in themselves be a significant stimulus to music education that will encourage more people to teach music in and beyond schools. The plan makes clear that a potential role for

music education hubs is to offer continuing profession development to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he intends to publish a national plan for music education. [82862]

Mr Gibb: We published a National Plan for Music Education on 25 November, which will reform how music education is funded and delivered. The plan was placed in the House of Commons Library and can be found on the Department for Education's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-00086-2011

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated for music education in England in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [82944]

Mr Gibb: The table shows Department for Education funding for music education in England in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Our new National Plan for Music Education, published on 25 November, sets out future funding allocations and a new funding mechanism from 2012-13.

£

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Music Manifesto Development Director	20,000	20,000
Music grants	200,000	160,000
Music Manifesto Website	80,000	30,000
Music Participation director	100,000	100,000
Music partnership projects	1,000,000	405,000
Year of Music	500,000	300,000
Federation of music services—MSEP work	450,000	350,000
Federation of music services—MIF	30,000	20,250
In Harmony	822,000	1,000,000
Singing money	10,000,000	10,000,000
Music standards fund	82,580,000	82,562,467
Music CPD KS2	[1]29,100,000	1,100,000
Music and Dance Scheme	[1]—	31,500,000

[1] Indicates a brace.

Physics: Teachers

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what budget his Department has allocated for the partnership with the Institute of Physics on the teaching of physics; and what proportion such funding represents of the overall funding for the partnership. [83471]

Mr Gibb: The Department's implementation plan for the initial teacher training (ITT) strategy 'Training our next generation of outstanding teachers', published on 8 November 2011, announced the partnership with the Institute of Physics to provide up to 100 scholarships of £20,000 to help attract more of the best graduates into physics teaching. The Department will fund the payment of £20,000 to those who are awarded the scholarships. The Institute of Physics will cover the costs of administrating the award of the scholarships. The Institute of Physics is also working with the Department to provide support to schools to increase take up of A level physics for which a total of £3,900,000 funding has been allocated over the period 2011-14.

Pupils: Assessments

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many errors were made in *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examination papers in each year since 2000. [83472]

Mr Gibb: Responsibility for the independent regulation of examinations and qualifications (including GCSEs and A Levels) lies with Ofqual. Comparable figures for uncorrected errors in live examination papers are only available from 2006. The number of errors recorded in *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level examination papers in England is given in the following table.

	Recorded GCSE exam errors	*Recorded A Level exam errors*	*Total*
2006	1	0	1
2007	0	1	1
2008	2	1	3
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0
2011	4	7	11

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in England were eligible for the pupil premium in the 2011-12 school year. [81523]

Mr Gibb: Since April 2011, a pupil premium has been provided on the basis of children who are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM), children who are in care and have been continuously looked after for six months and a service premium for children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. In most cases the premiums are allocated down to schools and for 2011-12 are set at £488 per pupil for FSM and looked after children and £200 per pupil for the service child premium. Based on returns from the January 2011 school census, 1,217,560 children were known to be eligible for FSM, 40,560 are eligible for the looked after child element of the premium and 45,070 children are eligible for the service child premium in 2011-12. Full details of the allocations of the pupil premium can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/settlement2012pupilpremium/a0075963/pupil-premium-2011-12

School Leaving: Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in Romford constituency left further education having completed A-levels or equivalent qualifications to enter full-time employment in 2005-06. [83140]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold the requested information.

Schools

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many visits he has made to *(a)* academy secondary schools, *(b)* academy primary schools, *(c)* academy special schools, *(d)* free schools, *(e)* maintained secondary schools, *(f)* maintained primary schools and *(g)* maintained special schools since May 2010. [76608]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 October 2011]:* Between May 2010 and 22 November, the Secretary of State for Education has visited the following types of schools:

(a) 14 secondary academies

(b) five primary academies

(c) no academy special schools

(d) two free schools

(e) 18 maintained secondary schools

(f) 11 maintained primary schools

(g) two maintained special schools

He has also visited three 'all-through' academies which offer primary and secondary provision, one independent school and two FE colleges.

Schools: Admissions

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the reasons are for his Department's response to the consultation on the revised School Admissions Code in respect of permitting only academies and free schools to give priority in their admission arrangements to children in receipt of pupil premium; and what account he took of representations made by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* local representative groups, *(c)* head teachers and teachers, *(d)* faith organisations, *(e)* appeals panels, members and clerks and *(f)* others in reaching that conclusion. [83572]

Mr Gibb: The Department consulted extensively from 27 May until 19 August and received 1,337 responses from local authorities, local representative groups, head teachers, faith organisations, appeals panel members and parents. A response to the consultation and revised Schools Admissions and Appeals Codes was published on 2 November, which took account of the views expressed during the consultation. As set out in the departmental response, there was a mixed response to the question on giving academies and free schools freedom to give greater priority to children in receipt of pupil premium in their local admission arrangements. The Department proposed this change to the School Admissions Code as part of its overall policy to break the link between poor pupil attainment and low family income.

Schools: Bullying

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans he has to increase resources for organisations that work to return severely bullied students to mainstream institutions; [82886]

(2) what plans he has to decrease the number of self-absenting pupils who take prolonged school leave due to severe bullying; [83512]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of secondary school children who returned to mainstream institutions after taking prolonged absences due to bullying in each of the last five years. [83513]

Mr Gibb *[holding answers 25 and 28 November 2011]:* Decisions about the approaches used to tackle bullying and support the victims of bullying are best taken locally, by schools and local authorities, and these activities should be funded principally from the Dedicated Schools Grant. Where a child is unable to attend school and is not being home educated, local authorities are required to provide suitable education at school or in alternative provision, the aim of which is usually to return the child to school. This can include education for children who are severely bullied. The Secretary of State for Education has asked Charlie Taylor, his expert adviser on behaviour, to conduct a review of how to improve the quality of alternative provision. The Department does not collect data on absences as a result of bullying.

Schools: Closures

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools closed in each year between 1997 and 2010. [82524]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* The following table sets out the numbers of maintained mainstream schools that have closed in each year since 2000. Reliable information prior to 2000 is not available. The table only shows figures for those schools closed and which have not been replaced. It excludes any technical closures, i.e. those schools that as a result of a change of status, character or a merger with another school are technically closed and then are reopened.

	School closures
2000	13
2001	26
2002	31
2003	36
2004	54
2005	39
2006	41
2007	45
2008	50
2009	31
2010	28
Total	394

Schools: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of funding for schools in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [82160]

Mr Gibb: The Government have made clear their intention to reform the school funding system. The current funding system is based on historical expenditure and an out of date assessment of need. Our recent consultation on reforming the school funding system looked carefully at how rural schools should be supported.

The Department for Education is considering responses to the consultation and discussing options with interested parties, including those who represent rural areas, before we decide how to proceed. We aim to consult on more detailed proposals in the spring.

Secondary Education

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedure secondary schools seeking to provide 16 to 19 education should follow. [82702]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities and governing bodies of all maintained secondary schools can propose to alter the upper age range of a school to add a sixth form. To do so they would be required to follow the five stage statutory process outlined in statutory guidance of consultation, publication, representation, decision and implementation. The guidance can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation/a0075166/other-changes-to-a-school-and-expansions

Academies can also expand their age range to include a sixth form. They are required to consult locally and submit a business case to the YPLA (Young Peoples Learning Agency). Ministers will then judge each case on its merit taking account of the advice from the YPLA.

Secondary Education: Finance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the Institute for Fiscal Studies report on trends in education and schools spending for secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [83095]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Despite having to take some tough decisions to reduce the deficit, the schools' budget is increasing by £3.6 billion in cash over the next four years. This protects per pupil funding levels in cash and includes the pupil premium.

We also increased free early education for all three and four year olds and extended it to disadvantaged two year olds.

Sixth-form Education: North-east England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many people aged 16 to 18 from *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Middlesbrough Borough, *(c)* Redcar and Cleveland Borough, *(d)* Teesside and *(e)* the North East were enrolled in (i) sixth form colleges and (ii) school sixth forms to start courses in each academic year since 2008-09; [83575]

(2) how many people aged 16 to 18 from *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Middlesbrough Borough, *(c)* Redcar and Cleveland Borough, *(d)* Teesside and *(e)* the North East were enrolled in further education colleges to start courses in each academic year since 2008-09. [83576]

Tim Loughton: Data on participation in education post-16 are published in a Department for Education (DfE) Statistical First Release (SFR) entitled "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England".

Information on participation is not available at constituency or borough level. The following tables show the numbers and proportions of the cohort of young people of academic age 16-17 in the north east region and its constituent local authorities participating full-time in maintained schools or academies, sixth form colleges or colleges of further education. As the figures exclude participation in independent schools, part-time education and work-based learning they do not reflect all participation in education of 16-17 year olds.

Table 1: Number of 16-17[1] year olds participating full-time in education by institution type

	End 2008 (numbers)			*End 2009 (numbers)*		
	Maintained school or academy	*Sixth form college*	*Other FE*	*Maintained school or academy*	*Sixth form college*	*Other FE*
North East	17,400	5,000	23,300	18,100	5,100	23,800
Hartlepool	300	700	700	300	700	700
Middlesbrough	500	700	1,500	500	600	1,500
Redcar and Cleveland	200	1,100	1,500	300	1,100	1,500
Stockton-on-Tees	600	1,100	2,000	700	1,100	2,100
Darlington	200	800	800	200	900	800
Durham	3,700	600	4,700	3,800	700	4,900
Gateshead	1,800	0	1,500	1,900	0	1,400
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,600	0	1,500	2,700	0	1,600
North Tyneside	1,800	0	1,600	2,000	0	1,500
Northumberland	3,800	0	1,600	3,900	0	1,800
South Tyneside	500	0	2,200	600	0	2,200
Sunderland	1,200	0	3,800	1,300	0	3,800

[1] The age of a learner is measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

Notes.

1. Participation figures for 18-year olds are not available disaggregated by local authority.
2. 'Other FE' includes all learners in General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (e.g. agriculture colleges) and FE provision funded by the YPLA delivered in higher education institutions.

Table 2: Proportion of 16-17[1] year olds participating full-time in education by institution type

	End 2008 (Percentage of cohort in LA)			End 2009 (Percentage of cohort in LA)		
	Maintained school or academy	Sixth form college	Other FE	Maintained school or academy	Sixth form college	Other FE
North East	25	7	34	27	8	36
Hartlepool	12	27	25	14	28	29
Middlesbrough	12	17	39	14	16	39
Redcar and Cleveland	4	28	37	7	29	39
Stockton-on-Tees	12	20	36	12	20	40
Darlington	9	31	28	9	36	30
Durham	28	5	35	29	5	38
Gateshead	36	0	30	38	0	29
Newcastle upon Tyne	39	0	23	42	0	25
North Tyneside	37	0	32	42	0	32
Northumberland	47	0	20	50	0	23
South Tyneside	13	0	53	15	0	56
Sunderland	16	0	50	17	0	51

[1] The age of a learner is measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.

Notes:

1. Participation figures for 18-year olds are not available disaggregated by local authority.
2. 'Other FE' includes all learners in General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (e.g. agriculture colleges) and FE provision funded by the YPLA delivered in higher education Institutions.

Sixth-form Colleges: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on planned reductions in future funding for school sixth forms; and if he will make a statement. [83522]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 November 2011]:* We have received many representations about funding for 16 to 19-year-olds in school sixth forms from a wide audience of interested parties, including letters from students, parents, schools and colleges, as well as from representative organisations.

In 2011-12, the total funding for 16 to 19-year-olds will be over £7.5 billion, a record level. It means we can look forward to full participation in education and training among 16 and 17-year-olds by 2015. However, we have had to make unit cost savings by bringing school sixth form funding in line with colleges and reducing the requirement for the "Curriculum 2000" entitlement activity.

We are managing these changes carefully and that is why transitional protection is in place this year to ensure that no sixth form, school or college, sees a funding reduction of more than 3% per student. Transitional protection in some form will continue to apply throughout the spending review period to help all school sixth forms adapt to the financial constraints the sector faces.

Special Educational Needs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that small rural schools have access to special educational needs services. [82604]

Sarah Teather: Rural schools may face particular challenges in supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, particularly in responding to 'low incidence' needs. However, the statutory duties on schools and local authorities are clear.

The local authority has an overall duty to secure sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in their area and must have particular regard to securing special educational provision for children who have special educational needs (SEN).

Schools are able to collaborate with each other and with the local authority in order to meet their own duties in relation to SEN and to improve the support available to pupils. This will be particularly important for smaller schools.

The Achievement for All (AfA) programme has been very successful at raising attainment and aspirations of children and young people with SEN or a disability. Schools with fewer than 500 pupils, including rural schools, can join together to make it easier to participate in the AfA programme. This would allow smaller schools to share the costs of participation.

Similarly, the current SEN and disability pathfinder programme is testing out the Government's reforms through 20 pathfinders in a range of areas across the country, including rural settings. The learning will be used to inform any future reforms.

Special Educational Needs: Young People

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to make it mandatory for local authorities to carry out learning-difficulty assessments for young people with disabilities or learning difficulties before they switch to post-16 providers; and if he will make a statement. [82892]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities already have a statutory duty to ensure learning difficulty assessments take place for all young people who had a statement of special educational need at school if they are moving from school into post 16 education or training. This provision was made under the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the ASCL Act) and section 139A of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if his Department will take steps to ensure that learning-difficulty assessments carried out by local authorities for students with disabilities or learning difficulties intending to progress to further education are *(a)* conducted in an efficient manner, *(b)* completed and *(c)* form a reliable basis on which to plan support or an appropriate programme of learning; and if he will make a statement. [82893]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure learning difficulty assessments take place for all young people who had a statement of special educational need at school if they are moving from school into post 16 education or training. In exercising its functions under this section an authority must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education.

The statutory guidance makes it clear that those undertaking learning difficulty assessments should have the relevant expertise and a professional responsibility to deliver high quality and consistent assessments.

Teachers: Finance

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what monitoring mechanisms he has put in place to assess the uptake of teacher release funding. [83679]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* We have removed from schools the burden of having to fill in long, time-consuming and cumbersome sport survey returns, which was a requirement of the previous Government. Instead, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport will introduce a much lighter-touch system of measurement, focusing specifically on schools' participation in competitive sport as part of the School Games. In addition, there will be an independent impact study of the School Games which will sample trends in schools' participation. The details of these are currently being developed, including the extent to which they assess the release of PE teachers.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons teacher release funding did not reach schools until September 2011. [83680]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* The first payment of physical education (PE) teacher release funding was paid to schools, on schedule, at the end of September 2011. The funding is for the academic year 2011/12, which started in September 2011.

Teachers: Pensions

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the National Audit Office report entitled The impact of the 2007-08 changes to public service pensions published in December 2010, whether updated statistical evidence is available on the affordability of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [83855]

Mr Gibb: The Independent Public Sector Services Commission chaired by Lord Hutton considered current and future costs of public sector pension scheme and concluded the need to review future affordability and sustainability of all public sector schemes.

Scheme valuations are normally undertaken every three or four years to establish the cost of meeting the scheme's pension commitments.

The most recent valuation for the Teachers' Pension Scheme has not been completed because the Government suspended valuations of public service schemes following the interim findings of the Independent Public Sector Services Commission.

A valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be completed in the future following scheme reforms.

Teachers: Retirement

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of the teacher population which is likely to retire in the next 10 years. [78259]

Mr Gibb: In November 2010 there were 104,800 full-time equivalent teachers (excluding occasional teachers) aged 50 or over in service in publicly funded schools in England and therefore within 10 years of the normal age of retirement for those teachers who were in pensionable service prior to 1 January 2007. Those teachers who entered pensionable service for the first time on or after 1 January 2007 have a normal age of retirement of 65. This figure represents 24% of the total number of teachers in service. In November 2010 there were 48,100 full-time equivalent regular teachers aged between 45 and 49 in service in publicly funded schools in England and therefore within 10 years of the minimum retirement age of 55 at which point they are eligible for early retirement, with a reduction for early payment.

These figures are based on school work force data supplied to the November 2010 School Workforce Census.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people aged between 16 and 19 were not in education, employment or training in each quarter of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [83645]

Tim Loughton: Estimates of the number and proportion of young people aged 16 to 18 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) are published in the statistical first release (SFR) 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England'. This publication contains the Department's best estimate of the NEET rate and is published annually in June:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001011/index.shtml

Quarterly data on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in England are published in the statistical release (SR) 'NEET Quarterly Brief'. The most recent version was released on 24 November 2011, and includes statistics for every calendar quarter between Quarter 3 2006 and Quarter 3 2011 in the main document, with an additional time-series extending back to Quarter 2 2000 published as "additional Information". Both are available at the following web-link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001040/index.shtml

Young People: Disability

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals in the next parliamentary Session to provide young disabled people with a legal right to a package of support up to the age of 25; [82306]

(2) whether he will bring forward legislative proposals on special educational needs to include a right to educational support up to the age of 25 for all young people with *(a)* autism and *(b)* other disabilities. [82430]

Sarah Teather: We are committed to developing a radically different system to support better life outcomes for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, including those with autism. We want disabled young people to have access to choice and opportunity at al stages of their education, with a range of supported pathways into employment and independent living.

The special educational needs and disability Green Paper—"Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability"—sets out our ambitions for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. One of its central proposals is to introduce a single assessment process and new 'Education, Health and Care Plan' for young people with special educational needs, up to the age of 25, which will bring together the support on which children and their families rely across education, health and social care.

These proposals have been the subject of extended consultation. We are considering the responses and will be publishing a report by the end of the year with our progress and the next steps. We will consider legislative changes as we develop these proposals further.

Young People: Unemployment

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people aged between 16 and 18 were not in education, employment or training in Warrington South constituency in each academic year since 1997. [82349]

Tim Loughton: The official national estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. However, these data cannot be disaggregated to parliamentary constituency level because they are in part based on sample data for employment.

We can estimate the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET at a sub-national level using data collected by local authorities, but the figures are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

The figures for 16 to 18-year-olds who were NEET in each year between 2005-06 and 2010-11, for the Warrington local authority, are shown in the following table; statistics prior to 2005-06 are not available. Note that due to methodological differences, estimates for young people NEET based on local authority data tend to be lower than the official estimates for NEET in the SFR.

Number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET (actual age)

	Average number NEET in the three months November to January (% of 16-18 year cohort in brackets)					
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Warrington	460 (7.3%)	450 (7.0%)	370 (5.8%)	460 (7.2%)	360 (5.6%)	330 (5.3%)

Notes:
1. Figures for 19-year-olds are not available.
2. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
CCIS

Youth Services: Per Capita Costs

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the per capita expenditure was on provision of activities for young people by each local authority in 2011-12. [82656]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* Section 251 financial returns showing outturn spend in 2011-12 will be published in January 2013. The amounts individual local authorities have budgeted to spend on services for young people in 2011-12 may be found in the following table:

Local authority planned spend on services for young people in England 2011-12[1,2,3]. Figures taken from s251 Budget 2011-12 statements

£

		Total services for young people	*Total services for young people per capita spend*
201	City of London	549,243	1,229
202	Camden	9,242,120	585
203	Greenwich	6,822,240	386
204	Hackney	9,964,290	652
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,640,196	164
206	Islington	5,625,988	460
207	Kensington and Chelsea	5,225,070	477
208	Lambeth	6,348,865	385
209	Lewisham	7,447,636	387
210	Southwark	8,552,349	462
211	Tower Hamlets	10,532,639	647
212	Wandsworth	7,599,030	537
213	Westminster	3,452,150	242
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,475,810	91
302	Barnet	3,499,823	127
303	Bexley	4,065,000	199
304	Brent	5,801,081	319
305	Bromley	2,352,375	93
306	Croydon	7,616,964	256
307	Ealing	3,853,295	176
308	Enfield	5,733,687	233
309	Haringey	2,515,689	166
310	Harrow	3,937,377	210
311	Havering	4,373,038	208
312	Hillingdon	5,078,010	221
313	Hounslow	3,301,080	198
314	Kingston-upon-Thames	2,636,558	198
315	Merton	3,064,949	220
316	Newham	6,558,360	320
317	Redbridge	857,306	36

Local authority planned spend on services for young people in England 2011-12[1,2,3]. Figures taken from s251 Budget 2011-12 statements

		Total services for young people	£ *Total services for young people per capita spend*
318	Richmond-upon-Thames	3,093,527	226
319	Sutton	2,116,950	128
320	Waltham Forest	2,996,039	170
330	Birmingham	13,097,206	134
331	Coventry	5,659,066	195
332	Dudley	5,120,640	192
333	Sandwell	7,205,200	283
334	Solihull	4,291,907	229
335	Walsall	6,827,567	294
336	Wolverhampton	6,527,090	319
340	Knowsley	2,532,194	183
341	Liverpool	10,583,634	276
342	St Helens	4,314,034	273
343	Sefton	5,302,800	222
344	Wirral	7,773,100	294
350	Bolton	7,489,700	315
351	Bury	2,068,569	129
352	Manchester	4,618,110	112
353	Oldham	6,308,432	308
354	Rochdale	4,297,783	229
355	Salford	5,037,543	268
356	Stockport	5,171,610	219
357	Tameside	4,350,600	230
358	Trafford	4,644,040	265
359	Wigan	6,236,617	238
370	Barnsley	6,605,295	330
371	Doncaster	6,585,850	264
372	Rotherham	2,929,711	131
373	Sheffield	7,670,180	157
380	Bradford	12,423,999	262
381	Calderdale	5,556,593	318
382	Kirklees	9,380,376	255
383	Leeds	16,267,660	236
384	Wakefield	7,593,560	274
390	Gateshead	3,497,245	223
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	4,730,203	184
392	North Tyneside	3,035,080	197
393	South Tyneside	4,621,136	355
394	Sunderland	5,954,874	249
420	Isles of Scilly	148,996	861
800	Bath and NE Somerset	2,159,916	128
801	City of Bristol	8,344,076	247
802	North Somerset	2,221,305	133
803	South Gloucestershire	4,171,000	178
805	Hartlepool	2,483,993	297
806	Middlesbrough	4,820,580	371
807	Redcar and Cleveland	3,225,878	274
808	Stockton-on-Tees	4,954,813	284
810	City of Kingston-upon-Hull	5,532,312	234
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	5,475,770	191
812	North East Lincolnshire	4,386,100	307

Local authority planned spend on services for young people in England 2011-12[1,2,3]. Figures taken from s251 Budget 2011-12 statements

		Total services for young people	£ *Total services for young people per capita spend*
813	North Lincolnshire	1,708,457	125
815	North Yorkshire	9,863,343	191
816	York	3,096,030	182
821	Luton	3,367,538	196
822	Bedford Borough	2,081,468	146
823	Central Bedfordshire	2,075,808	97
825	Buckinghamshire	4,572,444	105
826	Milton Keynes	4,448,126	215
830	Derbyshire	14,126,101	219
831	Derby	3,754,487	176
835	Dorset	7,633,300	219
836	Poole	2,130,538	185
837	Bournemouth	3,201,000	239
840	Durham	5,500,630	124
841	Darlington	1,965,762	237
845	East Sussex	6,579,034	152
846	Brighton and Hove	4,082,472	205
850	Hampshire	12,297,900	111
851	Portsmouth	2,693,300	153
852	Southampton	3,741,025	175
855	Leicestershire	7,925,337	138
856	Leicester City	7,660,482	280
857	Rutland	803,600	171
860	Staffordshire	12,383,905	176
861	Stoke	2,534,390	126
865	Wiltshire	6,112,847	148
866	Swindon	2,892,765	177
867	Bracknell Forest	2,195,434	207
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,831,660	138
869	West Berkshire	2,896,242	202
870	Reading	2,754,281	218
871	Slough	3,383,396	335
872	Wokingham	1,952,450	130
873	Cambridgeshire	7,664,419	144
874	City of Peterborough	2,781,022	191
876	Halton	4,422,754	426
877	Warrington	1,300,115	78
878	Devon	10,021,370	157
879	City of Plymouth	5,883,090	257
880	Torbay	2,566,290	240
881	Essex	16,419,878	136
882	Southend	2,461,680	185
883	Thurrock	2,105,543	151
884	Herefordshire	2,297,091	156
885	Worcestershire	9,076,864	195
886	Kent	23,670,035	185
887	Medway	4,408,055	188
888	Lancashire	19,504,030	187
889	Blackburn and Darwen	3,003,200	207
890	Blackpool	1,993,664	163
891	Nottinghamshire	15,721,828	241
892	City of Nottingham	7,258,232	259
893	Shropshire	4,152,350	162
894	Telford and Wrekin	2,882,827	188

Local authority planned spend on services for young people in England 2011-12[1,2,3]. Figures taken from s251 Budget 2011-12 statements

£

		Total services for young people	Total services for young people per capita spend
895	Cheshire East	3,001,712	100
896	Cheshire West and Chester	3,029,769	108
908	Cornwall	11,441,998	259
909	Cumbria	7,777,000	186
916	Gloucestershire	9,166,388	177
919	Hertfordshire	18,789,563	200
921	Isle of Wight	3,435,814	296
925	Lincolnshire	11,931,437	198
926	Norfolk	4,777,147	69
928	Northamptonshire	6,884,136	116
929	Northumberland	5,602,335	228
931	Oxfordshire	8,794,470	151
933	Somerset	6,959,665	147
935	Suffolk	12,468,944	206
936	Surrey	15,311,824	163
937	Warwickshire	9,185,880	203
938	West Sussex	8,811,512	132
	England	883,372,160	200
	Minimum per capita	—	36
	Maximum per capita	—	1,229

[1] Data are as reported by LAs in their s251 Budget returns.
[2] Total services for young people includes spend on universal services for young people (including youth work, positive activities, Connexions and information, advice and guidance), targeted services for young people (including youth work, positive activities and information, advice and guidance), substance misuse services (Drugs, Alcohol, and Volatile substances), teenage pregnancy services, discretionary awards and student support.
[3] Population data used to calculate per capita spend are as at 1 January 2012 (projected), and includes all 13 to 19-year-olds inclusive, as at previous 31 August. Estimates are derived from Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates (to 2010) and mid-2008 based sub-national population projections and internal DfE modelling for 2011 onwards.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

European Development Fund

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage speedier distribution of funds from the European Development Fund. [83683]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) monitors spending and results of the European Commission's European Development Fund (EDF) through the EDF Management Committee and the Council's Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Working Group. At the partner country level; DFID meets regularly with the EU Delegations and member states to follow up on progress on EDF implementation, spend and delivery of results.

In October 2011, DFID achieved a strong EU Council conclusion on the need to improve the efficiency, results and monitoring of the EDF as part of the 2011 EDF Performance Review. We will use upcoming EDF meetings to follow up progress. We are also currently working with the Commission to make sure that the quality, timeliness and results-focus of EDF spending is reflected in the new financial regulations for 2013-20 and not least the implementation of the EDF programmes at the country level.

Kenya: Education

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what his policy is on supporting low-fee private schools and voucher schemes in Kenya; [83877]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of voucher schemes and private schools supported by his Department in Kenya on access to education in that country. [83863]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) programme in Kenya supports low-fee private schools. These schools often charge as little as £2 per month. Many of them are in and around urban slums. Families living in these areas often do not have access to state schools, and low-fee private schools offer the only affordable opportunity to educate their children. This year, the DFID programme in Kenya contributed complete sets of textbooks to 250,000 children in 1,100 low-fee private schools across the country.

The DFID programme in Kenya does not currently support vouchers for education, but does provide cash transfers of around £9 per month to almost 100,000 of Kenya's poorest households containing orphans or other vulnerable children. These cash transfers have proved to be effective in meeting basic needs, including the education and health care of the children in beneficiary households.

HEALTH

Cancer: Ethnic Groups

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the 2010 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, what steps his Department is taking to improve the experience of black and other minority ethnic patients with cancer. [84297]

Paul Burstow: The National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) has established the National Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Cancer Voice, a cancer patient advisory panel, to understand the issues facing people who have been affected by cancer from BME communities. The 2010 Cancer Patient Experience Survey highlighted the variation in the views of patients from BME communities compared to white cancer patients. A number of culturally diverse surveys have been developed to further understand the reasons for the poor perception of care with the aim of working towards improvements.

Qualitative based research has also been undertaken with a number of trusts that followed up the NCAT 2009-10 culturally sensitive baseline audit; an audit which asked trusts about their policies and services relating to BME communities. This research has been carried out in partnership with Breast Cancer Care, and has been focused on finding where best practice already

exists in providing culturally diverse cancer services. A report aimed at commissioners and providers will be available in early 2012.

The 2010 survey data have been analysed by equality groups. Evidence was found of many differences, including BME patients being more likely to report not receiving understandable answers to their questions and not being given enough care after discharge. These findings, along with many others, have been shared with cancer networks, along with suggestions for action to reduce these differences in reported experience.

Dementia: Diagnosis

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase GPs' ability to identify dementia sufferers. [82894]

Paul Burstow: The Department has been working with strategic health authorities and deaneries to trial a new approach to dementia education and training for general practitioners (GPs) and practice staff. This involves primary care teams coming together to reflect on and self-assess their practice and identify ways in which they can improve care of people with dementia and their carers. More generally, the National Clinical Director for Dementia has also been working closely with the Royal College of GPs on issues relating to dementia education and training.

Health: Children

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Health and Social Care Bill to require joint working between health and education services in respect of the needs of children. [84067]

Anne Milton: Health and wellbeing boards will be a forum for the national health service, local authorities and communities to exercise shared leadership in arriving at a joint understanding of local needs, including the needs of local children and a shared strategy to address those needs.

The director of Children's Services will be a statutory member of the board. The health and wellbeing board will have powers to encourage close working with commissioners of health related services, which could include education services, where these have an effect on health. Clinical commissioning groups must exercise their functions with a view to securing that the provision of health services is integrated with the provision of health related services, which could include education services.

Hepatitis: Health Services

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects the NHS to spend on hepatitis C in each year for the next four years. [84298]

Anne Milton: Expenditure on services for hepatitis C provided by the national health service is a matter for local NHS commissioners to determine in the light of local needs and priorities.

Hospital Beds: Lancashire

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds were available for people with *(a)* mental health needs and *(b)* neurological conditions in Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust in (i) 2006 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [83867]

Paul Burstow: Data are not collected for neurological beds. Information on the average daily number of available beds open overnight for mental illness in 2005-06 and for the latest period is shown in the following table.

Period	*Organisation*	*Available mental illness beds (open overnight)*
2005-06	Lancashire Care NHS Trust	691
2011-12 quarter 2	Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	629

Notes:
1. Information is given for Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust which provides mental health services in the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust area.
2. Beds for 2005-06 were collected by ward type and included all beds on the following wards:
Mental illness: children: short stay
Mental illness: children: long stay
Mental illness: elderly: short stay
Mental illness: elderly: long stay
Mental illness: other ages: secure unit
Mental illness: other ages: short stay
Mental illness: other ages: long stay
3. Beds for 2011-12 Quarter 2 were collected by consultant speciality and only include beds where the patient is under the care of a consultant and covered the following consultant specialities:
710 adult mental illness
711 child and adolescent psychiatry
712 forensic psychiatry
713 psychotherapy
715 old age psychiatry
Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Hospitals: Food

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether food procured by each primary care trust meets the Government's buying standards for food and catering; [83727]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible; [83728]

(3) what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83729]

(4) what proportion of food sourced by each primary care trust was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83730]

(5) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83731]

Paul Burstow: The Department is working closely with its catering supplier on the adoption of the Government Buying Standards (GBS) for Food and Catering Services, as issued, for the first time, in June 2011. The Department can confirm that the majority of the 'mandatory' standards are already being met.

National health service trusts are not mandated to adopt GBS. However, they are encouraged to adopt the GBS for Food and Catering Services through the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework, as well as through guidance and training materials developed for the NHS on sustainable and low carbon procurement.

The Department is also working with The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a potential demonstration project supporting pilot NHS organisations in adopting the GBS for Food and Catering Services.

The Department does not hold information centrally on whether food procured by each primary care trust meets the Government's buying standards for food and catering.

GBS for Food and Catering Services, includes a 'best practice' requirement that,

"All eggs, including liquid and powdered eggs, are sourced from systems that do not use conventional cages. If from a caged system, enriched cages are used."

The Department, and its arm's length bodies are required to meet the 'mandatory' level standards under GBS (as per the Greening Government Commitments), and are encouraged to review performance against these standards and assess the potential for adopting 'best practice' standards.

In respect to liquefied eggs, the Department does not currently procure such products. NHS trusts are encouraged to adopt the GBS for Food and Catering Services through the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework, as well as through guidance and training materials developed for the NHS on sustainable and low carbon procurement.

The proportion of food sourced by the Department's catering supplier, from United Kingdom food producers since April 2011, is 24%. For NHS Supply Chain national contracts in 2008-09, the overall proportion of indigenous food (i.e. food that can be grown in the UK) that was UK sourced in this period was 64.5%, as reported in the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative report (2010).

The Department does not hold centrally information on what proportion of food sourced by each primary care trust was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available.

Maternity Services: Low Incomes

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the Royal College of Midwives and Netmums survey showing that women from lower incomes were denied ante-natal classes and the choice of a birth at home. [84379]

Anne Milton: There are many different ways of providing antenatal education from one to one discussions to workshop style groups. All mothers should discuss their birth plan with their midwife or doctor to find the best birth setting for them.

Midwives, doctors, and nurses encourage pregnant women to attend services early and the latest data shows 92% of women have their health and social care, needs, risks and choices assessed by the 12th week of their pregnancy, which enables good care planning throughout pregnancy, birth and afterwards.

The Department has recently (October 2011) launched 'Preparing for Birth and Beyond' pack, a new online resource pack developed in partnership with parenting organisations, antenatal educationalists, researchers, practitioners and service leaders, that can help organisations and practitioners run antenatal education classes tailored for their communities. The pack is based on a refreshed approach to antenatal education, following a systematic review of the evidence and views of the professionals, what parents want and what is available. It still covers preparation for birth, but also emphasises the developing child, the emotional transition to parenthood and family relationships and recognises the need to include fathers and other partners in groups and activities.

Medicine: Wholesale Trade

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* review and *(b)* reduce the number of wholesaler dealer licences for medicinal products. [84065]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) an executive agency of the Department, regulates manufacturers and wholesale dealers of medicinal products for human use in the United Kingdom on behalf of the UK Licensing Authority (LA).

The MHRA has not reviewed the number of authorised wholesale dealers in the UK or taken steps to reduce the number of such traders.

The MHRA has a legal responsibility to assess all applications made for a wholesale dealers licence and will grant a wholesale dealer's licence where the applicant meets UK provisions and community obligations for the safe storage and distribution of medicinal products in the UK or to revoke a granted licence for non compliance.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on the *(a)* separation of pharmaceutical wholesaling from dispensing activities within pharmacies and *(b)* implementation of recommendation 6 of the EU High-Level Pharmaceutical Forum G10. [84066]

Paul Burstow: Ministers and departmental officials meet regularly with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to discuss a range of policy issues.

Pharmacies are currently exempt from having to hold a wholesale dealer's licence by virtue of Section 10(7) of the Medicines Act 1968. In October 2011 the MHRA brought forward proposals for the repeal of section 10(7), on the basis that it conflicts with European Union legislation. The proposed change would take place as part of a consolidation of existing medicines legislation, currently being consulted upon by the MHRA. The repeal of 10(7) will require that, in future, any pharmacy that wishes to engage in commercial wholesale dealing activity must hold a wholesale dealer's licence.

In implementing Recommendation 6 from the EU High-Level Pharmaceutical Forum G10, the MHRA has concentrated on working with the UK's Health Technology Assessment body—the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence—to provide joint scientific advice to companies during the drug development process.

Palliative Care: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 352W, on palliative care, what steps he has taken to ensure that hospitals receive adequate funding for palliative care in proportion to the amount of such care provided. [84430]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of commissioners to decide how much money is allocated for specific services at a local level.

The Government have made a commitment to develop a per-patient funding system for palliative care. The independent Palliative Care Funding Review, which we set up in summer 2010, was asked to make recommendations on how we can develop a per-patient funding system that encourages more community-based care, supports people to choose from whom they receive the care they need; and that will be fair to all organisations involved.

The review has come up with a range of significant proposals which we now need to consider in detail. This work will be informed by local palliative care funding pilots which will collect a range of data to help test the review's recommendations. The call for expressions of interest in being a pilot site was published on 28 November 2011 and the pilots will be established from April 2012. The aim is have to have a new funding system in place by 2015.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Vaccination

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the availability of the Palivizumab vaccine; and which primary care trusts prescribe respiratory syncytial virus vaccinations of Palivizumab in cases of chronic chest infections in children. [84354]

Anne Milton: Guidance issued by the Department on the use and sourcing of Palivizumab is in the online Respiratory Syncytial Virus chapter of 'Immunisation against infectious disease' (also known as 'the Green Book') available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_130131.pdf

A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

The NHS Prescription Services indicated that the following primary care trusts (PCTs) in England prescribed Palivizumab Vaccine in the period October 2010 to September 2011:

PCT Devon;

PCT East Riding of Yorkshire;

PCT Gloucestershire;

PCT Havering;

PCT Kensington and Chelsea;

PCT Swindon; and

PCT Wiltshire.

NHS Prescription Services does not capture patient data and therefore can not provide any information on the age of the patient or the medical condition the patient was being treated for.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83733]

Mr Lidington: The proportion of food sourced by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK procured from UK food producers is as follows:

	Percentage
2010-11	25
April 2011 to date	25

"Produced in the UK" is defined as of guaranteed UK provenance which can be fully traced back to the source, ie food that has been grown and harvested or born, bred and slaughtered in the UK. Therefore we have not included any products that, even though may have been produced or manufactured in the UK, are of mixed origin.

In addition we can confirm the following:

100% of our fresh beef is UK sourced

100%of our fresh pork joints is UK sourced

100% of fresh milk is both UK sourced and Red Tractor

100% of shell eggs are UK sourced and Lion marked

All of our potatoes and root vegetables are sourced from UK when in season

The data for 2010-11 relating to this request and other food related targets are published on the FCO website.

It would incur disproportionate cost to source this information from our network of posts and our public bodies as this information is held locally.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82992]

Mr Lidington: Finances within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are devolved to individual directorates in the UK and to our network of posts overseas. This information is not held centrally in the form requested and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training staff of his Department are given in the use of privacy screen panels to protect sensitive data. [83621]

Mr Lidington: Privacy filters are available to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff and their use is promoted to mitigate the risk of "shoulder surfing". The FCO takes information security very seriously and uses a variety of measures to meet the risks posed from working remotely, in accordance with mandatory requirements set out in the Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework. FCO staff are required to adhere to the relevant standard of operating procedures (SOPs) for the ICT equipment they have been authorised to use, including mobility devices. Staff are trained in all aspects of data handling and security in a variety of ways including: annual completion of mandatory 'protecting information' training; induction courses; regular briefing and other training events; articles on departmental intranet sites; and ad hoc reminders as and when considered necessary.

Egypt: Elections

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to help ensure a smooth transition to civilian democratic rule following the parliamentary elections in Egypt on 28 November 2011. [83686]

Alistair Burt: The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has committed to a transition to a civilian-led democracy. This transition process is owned by the Egyptian people and it is not for the UK to dictate who or what should be acceptable to them. However, there has been sustained high-level UK Government engagement in support of the democratic transition process in Egypt, including visits by the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Our embassy in Cairo is in close contact with Egyptian parties to the transition and is helping to develop initiatives in support of that process under the Arab Partnership.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on responses to street protests in relation to the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Egypt. [83687]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is in regular contact with his counterparts, especially those in the MENA region, about Egypt. He will discuss the situation in Egypt with his EU counterparts at the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels on 30 November to 1 December.

The Foreign Secretary made statements on 23 and 27 November in which he has set out the Government's views on the situation in Egypt, including deep concern about the unacceptable violence and loss of life which has taken place in Tahrir square and other parts of Egypt, and the UK's consistent call for a rapid, clear transition to civilian-led democratic rule and elections that are free, fair, credible and secure. He discussed the situation and the forthcoming elections with the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 24 November.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to support the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Egypt. [83688]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to supporting the process of political transition in Egypt, including the parliamentary elections. The Carter Centre is one of the few international organisations allowed to observe the elections. We provided early financial and public support to the Carter Centre monitoring mission. This helped encourage other countries to contribute the finances the centre needed to observe the elections. We are supporting the Thomson Reuters Foundation and BBC World Service Trust to facilitate impartial electoral coverage, working with both independent and state media. We are also working to provide peer support to nascent political parties and parliamentarians, in particular female candidates.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK electoral observers will be present at the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Egypt. [83689]

Alistair Burt: The UK is committed to supporting the process of political transition in Egypt, including the parliamentary elections. The Carter Centre is one of the few international civil society organisations allowed to observe these elections, and we are providing them with support. The Egyptian authorities have informed our ambassador in Cairo that diplomats and foreign media could have limited access to polling stations. Our embassy in Cairo will take part in witnessing the election process informally, in line with these conditions.

Heritage Oil

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 47W, on Heritage Oil, whether any civil servants were present when he was approached by a representative of Heritage Oil in March 2011. [83438]

Mr Lidington: No. This was not an official event.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 47W, on Heritage Oil, what representations he received from Heritage Oil after he was approached by a representative of Heritage Oil in March 2011. [83439]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 29 November 2011]*: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs received one letter from Mr Christian Sweeting, Director of London and Central European Investments.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 47W, on Heritage Oil, who approached him to make representations on behalf of Heritage Oil in March 2011. [83440]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* The information is as follows:

Mr Christian Sweeting, Director of London and Central European Investments Ltd.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letters of 20 May 2011, 11 July 2011, 4 August 2011, 29 August 2011 and 13 September 2011 concerning a constituent, James Rieley. [83839]

Mr Lidington: I am sorry for the delay in the hon. Member receiving a reply. The letter was transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who have assured me that it is being treated as a priority.

Syria: Loans

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to press for the prohibition of further disbursements of European Investment Bank loans to Syria. [83681]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government were at the forefront of action approved by the EU Foreign Affairs Committee on 14 November 2011 to stop further disbursements of European Investment Bank loans to Syria. This is just one of a series of EU measures against the Syria regime aimed at stopping the violence. In nine rounds of sanctions the EU has subjected a total of 74 individuals and 19 entities to asset freezes and travel bans targeted against those supporting or benefitting from the regime and those associated with them. We are already working on further wide ranging measures for the December Foreign Affairs Council.

Syria: Politics and Government

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to secure international agreement on the draft UN Security Council Resolution on Syria. [84011]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government have been at the forefront of action on Syria in the UN. On 4 October the UK, together with France, Germany and Portugal tabled a draft resolution at the UN Security Council condemning the Syrian regime's use of force, calling for an end to violence, and threatening sanctions if the situation continued. It was vetoed by Russia and China, a decision that has been confirmed as misguided by everything that has happened in Syria subsequently.

On 22 November a UK, German and French resolution at the UN General Assembly Third Committee on the human rights situation in Syria, and co-sponsored by 62 countries, was passed with 122 votes in favour. The resolution called on the Syrian Government to end violence and implement the Arab League's plan of action without delay. On 29 November the UN Human Rights Council agreed to hold a Special Session on the human rights situation in Syria on 2 December.

We continue to discuss further action at the UN, including a Security Council resolution, with key international partners, particularly those in the region.

USA: Rendition

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish a list of all flights with a detainee on board that landed on Diego Garcia in March 2004; for which such flights the US administration sought permission from the UK to land on Diego Garcia; and if he will make a statement. [83446]

Mr Lidington: No flights with a detainee on board landed on Diego Garcia in March 2004.

Aside from the two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia (British Indian Ocean Territories) in 2002, the US Government has confirmed that there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the UK, our Overseas Territories, or the Crown Dependencies, with a detainee, on board since 11 September 2001.

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many flights by US intelligence services with a detainee on board have landed in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* British Overseas Territories and *(c)* Crown dependencies since 11 September 2001; and if he will make a statement. [83447]

Mr Lidington: There have been two cases, in January and September 2002, in which flights carrying a detainee had landed and refuelled on Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territories. The UK was informed of these flights by the US in February 2008, following which the then Foreign Secretary, the right hon. Member for South Shields (David Miliband), made a statement to Parliament. The US informed us that these flights refuelled briefly on Diego Garcia and that the detainees did not leave the plane.

Aside from the two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002, the US Government has confirmed that there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the UK, our Overseas Territories, or the Crown Dependencies, with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001.

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their US counterparts on use of airports in the UK, British Overseas Territories and Crown dependencies by flights by US intelligence services with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001, other than two cases relating to Diego Garcia in 2002; and if he will make a statement. [83448]

Mr Lidington: My officials hold regular talks with the US Government on issues relating to relevant British Overseas Territories. The most recent talks were held in Washington in September 2011. During these talks the US confirmed that there have been no other instances in which US intelligence flights landed in the UK, our Overseas Territories, or the Crown Dependencies, with a detainee on board since 11 September 2001.

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have authorised the involvement of the Secret Intelligence Service in a rendition operation since May 2010; if so on how many occasions such authorisation has been given; and if he will make a statement. [83449]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* It is the policy of successive HM Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

The Government policy on rendition is absolutely clear: we do not render people in breach of our legal obligations. Should another state wish to transfer an individual through our territory or airspace, we would consider all the circumstances and only grant permission if we were satisfied that it would accord with our domestic law and international obligations.

We unreservedly condemn any practice of "extraordinary rendition" to torture. We will not co-operate in any transfer of an individual where we believe there is a real risk of torture to the individual concerned. The Government's clear policy is not to participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment for any purpose. The coalition agreement made absolutely clear that "we will never condone the use of torture".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82534]

Chris Grayling: Within the Department and its executive and tribunal non-departmental public bodies, the number of reports issued by their internal audit service, excluding ad hoc advisory work, in the 12-month period ended 31 October 2011 was:

	Number
Department for Work and Pensions (including Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service)	185
Health and Safety Executive (including Health and Safety Laboratory)	31
Remploy Ltd	29
National Employment Savings Trust Corporation	14
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	13
The Pensions Regulator	8
Independent Living Fund	7
The Pensions Ombudsman and Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	6
The Pensions Advisory Service	2

Disability Living Allowance

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he proposes that the disability living allowance will be replaced by personal independence payments for children. [84301]

Maria Miller: Personal independence payment will not apply to new or existing claims for children when it is introduced in 2013. We are clear that before we apply personal independence payment to children, we will develop a specific assessment to ensure that the needs of children with long-term health conditions or impairments are properly considered. We will build on the experience of developing and implementing the assessment for claimants of working age to inform our decisions about the future arrangements for children. We will also want to take full account of the Department of Education's work on special educational needs and disability including proposals for a single assessment and to design support around disabled children's aspirations.

We have made clear that we will consult before taking any decisions on extending personal independence payment to children.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of reassessing those on contributory employment and support allowance in the Work Related Activity Group as they come to the end of the 12 month time-limit to determine if they qualify for the Support Group. [82623]

Chris Grayling: The impacts of the proposal to time limit contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group are set out in the impact assessment found at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf

The status of a claimant's ESA claim will not change as a result of the application of a 12-month time limit. Therefore, no estimates of the cost of reassessing those on contributory ESA in the Work Related Activity Group as they come to the end of the 12-month time limit have been undertaken.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of how many people subject to a time limit in the Work-Related Activity Group of contributory employment and support allowance will have a long-term degenerative condition. [82984]

Chris Grayling: The impacts of the proposal to time limit contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group are set out in the impact assessment found at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf

However, estimates of the numbers affected by time limiting have been modelled at a national level and cannot be reliably broken down for particular groups.

In addition, the term degenerative condition is a general one which may apply to any condition that leads to gradual deterioration. This can encompass a wide variety of conditions as diverse as neurological, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal conditions and cancer. Therefore we are unable to give an indication of how many people with degenerative conditions may be affected by the time limit.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median duration that a person in receipt of contributory employment and support allowance spends in the work-related activity group. [83391]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Contributions based employment support allowance claimants in the work related activity group, by mean and median durations —May 2011

	Weeks
Mean	73
Median	72

Durations by band	*Number of claimants*
All durations	102,010
Up to three months	1,130
Three months up to six months	6,780
Six months up to one year	24,130
One year and up to two years	47,210
Two years and up to five years	22,760

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10. Mean and medians are rounded to the nearest week.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Phase of ESA claim/The phase is derived from payment details held on the source system.
4. Payment type/group is derived from payment details held on the source system. Figures will include a small number of claimants entitled to both the contributory and income.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% based categories.

Employment Schemes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times sanctions have been recommended by providers of work programmes in the last year; and how many times sanctions have been imposed on claimants in the last year. [82611]

Chris Grayling: Data on Work programme sanctions are not currently available but will be released in spring 2012, alongside other Work programme statistics.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of income received by households affected by the household benefit cap is accounted for by *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in (i) each region of England, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales and (v) Northern Ireland; [83224]

(2) what proportion of income received by households affected by the household benefit cap with *(a)* one child, *(b)* two children, *(c)* three children and *(d)* four children or more in (i) each English region, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales and (v) Northern Ireland is accounted for by (A) housing benefit and (B) council tax benefit. [83226]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of income received by households in each band of housing tenure affected by the household benefit cap is accounted for by *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit. [83225]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for different categories of tenure type.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of 18 to 24 year olds starting an apprenticeship claimed jobseeker's allowance in the month prior to commencing their apprenticeship in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [83834]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Claimants leaving jobseeker's allowance are not required to inform the Department of their destinations and hence the information that is collected is incomplete.

DWP analysts have been investigating the scope for producing regular statistics on benefit destinations, as well as improving consistency of use of this data across the analytical community. The destinations statistics have not been used in the public domain before, mainly because of gaps in coverage and so are considered not robust enough for external use.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letters of 24 August 2011 and 4 October 2011 concerning a constituent, Sarah Culbertson. [83849]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus replied to the hon. Member on behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 6 September 2011. I apologise that no action was taken to clarify this when the hon. Member wrote again in October.

Poverty

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people living in poverty were *(a)* under the age of 16, *(b)* between the ages of 16 and 30, *(c)* between the ages of 31 and 60 and *(d)* over the age of 60 in the latest period for which figures are available. [83275]

Chris Grayling: Estimates of the number and proportion of individuals living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

Statistics covering 2009-10 are the most recent available.

The following table shows the number of individuals, by age band, living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income, before and after housing costs.

Table 1: Number of individuals living in poverty by age band, before and after housing costs, United Kingdom, 2009-10

	Number of individuals (million)		
Age group	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Population*
Under the age of 16	2.2	3.3	11.4
Between the ages of 16 and 30	2.2	3.3	12.3
Between the ages of 31 and 60	3.6	4.8	24.3
Over the age of 60	2.4	2.0	12.6

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and: private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a before housing costs and an after housing costs basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
6. Numbers of individuals have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
7. Poverty has been defined as:

Relative low income: households with equivalised household incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income, before or after housing costs.

Source:

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2009-10

Social Security Benefits

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants have ceased receiving benefit as a result of information supplied to his Department by the general public in the latest period for which figures are available. [84302]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many couples receiving income replacement benefits with one member of working age and one eligible for Pension Credit have an entitlement which includes the carer premium or addition; and what proportion of all such couples this represents. [84437]

Chris Grayling: The information available is set out in the following table.

Couples in receipt of income related benefits as at May 2011 where one member is under and the other age 60 or over

	Total couples	*Total couples in receipt of carer premium*	*Percentage of couples in receipt with carer premium*
Jobseeker's allowance (income based)	2,900	[1]100	[1]2.8
Income support	5,900	900	15.2
Pension credit	92,000	25,300	27.5

[1] Figures of less than 500 (and the resulting %) are based on very few sample cases and should be used as a guide only.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, percentages to one decimal place.
2. The figures assume that pension credit is available when one partner reaches age 60. However, the qualifying age for pension credit is increasing in line with the increase in women's state pension age. At February 2011 the qualifying age for pension credit was between 60 and four months and 60 and five months. Current data do not allow analysis that takes account of the increase in qualifying age.
3. Jobseeker's allowance is payable until state pension age. Income support is payable until a person reaches the pension credit qualifying age.
4. Data are not available for partners of employment and support allowance or incapacity benefit claimants.
5. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources. The proportions from the 5% sample data have been used and applied to the overall 100% total for the benefit to determine the total number of couples.
6. Figures are not available for couples who may be entitled to this support, but do not claim it.

Source:

Information, Governance and Security Directorate, 5% samples, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly loss of income would be for couples currently receiving income replacement benefits, with one member of working age and one eligible for pension credit, under proposals introduced by schedule 2, paragraph 64 of the Welfare Reform Bill. [84438]

Chris Grayling: The Government believe that all people of working age who can work should be expected to do so and that it is not right to continue the current position where pension credit can go to households which contain a person of working age without that person having to meet any work-related requirements. The universal credit approach provides financial support to such couples, whilst giving the working-age member of the couple access to support in finding work.

We have already acknowledged that it will be important not to undermine the stability and outcomes for existing pension credit customers, so the change will not apply to couples already in receipt of pension credit. As a result, there will be no loss for any couples who are

already currently receiving income replacement benefits where one member is of working age and one is eligible for pension credit as a result of proposals introduced by schedule 2, paragraph 64 of the Welfare Reform Bill.

Unemployment: Young People

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely level of youth unemployment in each of the next five years. [84072]

Chris Grayling: The latest forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility, published on 29 November 2011, is for unemployment to rise from its current 8.3% of the labour force to 8.7% in the final quarter of 2012. It is then forecast to fall to 8.4% in the final quarter of 2013, 7.8% in the same period in 2014, 6.8% in 2015 and 5.9% in 2016. There is no separate forecast for youth unemployment but this would be expected to follow a broadly similar trend. The Government are investing in policies to support young people to remain active in their job search and help them to engage in real work with employers. This includes a new Youth Contract worth nearly £1 billion. The contract will provide more intensive support for all 18 to 24-year-olds and builds on that already available through Jobcentre Plus and the Work programme.

Work Capability Assessment

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the recommendations on refining the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors used in the work capability assessment as submitted to his Department by the independent reviewer Professor Malcolm Harrington in April 2011. [84289]

Chris Grayling: As my reply to the hon. Member of 28 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 765W set out, the Department currently have no plans to formally publish the report submitted to the Department regarding the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors but I have placed a copy of the report in the House Library for Members. We are working with Professor Harrington and the charities that produced the report to review the questionnaire completed by claimants (the ESA50) and to consider building the evidence base around the current and proposed descriptors.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current average waiting time is for a work capability assessment in Wales. [84309]

Chris Grayling: The average actual clearance time (AACT) for a work capability assessment (WCA) in Wales at the end of October 2011 is 67.3 days

This is the average time from receipt of the referral from the Department to Atos Healthcare through to the medical assessment report being completed and returned to the Department.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a risk assessment of the failure or withdrawal of a Work programme prime provider; and if he will place a copy of the outcomes of any such assessment in the Library. [84439]

Chris Grayling: All providers were required to demonstrate that they had the capacity to deliver the Work programme at the bidding stage. In addition, there are various mechanisms in place enabling the Department to be forewarned about the potential failure or withdrawal of providers, allowing the Department to put contingency arrangements in place before service delivery is affected. Individual provider assessments include commercially sensitive information that the Department cannot publish.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of making the new enterprise allowance available to people on the Work programme. [84440]

Chris Grayling: The new enterprise allowance is available to claimants from six months into their benefit claim and is specifically focused on individuals who wish to start their own business.

There are no plans to make the new enterprise allowance available to people on the Work programme. We believe that Work programme providers are best placed to design back to work support and so have allowed them the freedom to do what they believe is best for the individual, which can include helping participants to set up in business.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Work programme prime contractors are required to set aside funds to work with community and voluntary sector sub-contractors. [84441]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not specify the commercial arrangements between Work programme prime providers and their subcontractors, other than to require that prime providers follow the Merlin Standard which promotes fair treatment and excellence in supply chain management.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Regulation

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the level of administrative demands placed by Government on small businesses. [80404]

Mr Prisk: As part of our wider commitment to free up businesses by cutting red tape, we have announced a moratorium on new domestic regulation for micro-businesses and start-ups until April 2014. We are also looking at how we can reduce the existing regulatory burden by inviting everyone, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to identify unnecessarily burdensome

regulation through the Red Tape Challenge. In addition, we are consulting on proposals to give more SMEs and subsidiary companies the ability to make a commercial decision about whether or not to have an audit—which we estimate would save them around £200 million; and through our proposed programme of reviews of regulatory bodies, we will seek to ensure that arrangements for enforcing legal requirements demands are proportionate for the business, fit for purpose and appropriately risk-based.

Debts

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals to amend part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 prior to implementation; [82527]

(2) what plans he has to give effect to part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [82528]

Mr Davey: Chapter 3 of part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (debt relief orders) was implemented in England and Wales on 6 April 2009. We launched a Call for Evidence on personal insolvency and consumer credit in October 2010, and in the light of the response, we are now taking forward various initiatives on debt management. We will be considering whether to amend or implement the remaining provisions in part 5 of the Act in due course in the light of developments in this area.

Higher Education: Admissions

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications have been submitted by residents of *(a)* Nottingham East constituency, *(b)* Nottingham City, *(c)* Nottinghamshire (excluding Nottingham City) and *(d)* the East Midlands in the 2011-12 admissions cycle to date; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [83744]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* The latest information is in the tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

All applicants to UCAS as at 21 November by parliamentary constituency/region

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*[2]
Nottingham East constituency	179	169
Nottingham City	801	718
Nottinghamshire (excl Nottingham City)	1,620	1,281
The East Midlands	11,619	9,288

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

On time applicants to courses with a 15 October deadline[1] *by parliamentary constituency/region*

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[2]	*2011-12*[3]
Nottingham East constituency	45	41
Nottingham City	184	165
Nottinghamshire (excl Nottingham City)	333	375
The East Midlands	2,289	2,245

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the Borough of Middlesbrough, *(c)* the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, *(d)* the Tees Valley and *(e)* the North East in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 21 November 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [84160]

Mr Willetts: The latest information is in the following tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of October 15. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is January 15.

All applicants to UCAS as at November 21 by parliamentary constituency/region

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*[2]
Middlesbrough south and east Cleveland constituency	268	207
The borough of Middlesbrough	180	120
The borough of Redcar and Cleveland	228	197
The Tees Valley	1,792	1,292
The North East	5,392	4,237

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

On time applicants to courses with an October 15 deadline[1] *by parliamentary constituency/region*

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11*[2]	*2011-12*[3]
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency	35	33
The borough of Middlesbrough	23	18

On time applicants to courses with an October 15 deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region

	Application cycle	
Area of domicile	*2010-11[2]*	*2011-12[3]*
The borough of Redcar and Cleveland	21	23
The Tees Valley	254	227
The North East	1,131	1,073

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

In my answer to the hon. Member's parliamentary question (77543) tabled on 31 October and answered on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 109W, the figures for the Tees Valley did not include applicants from Middlesbrough south and east Cleveland constituency. The figures for the Tees Valley should have been 484 in 2010-11 and 390 in 2011-12 (not 410 and 322 respectively).

Higher Education: Apprentices

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices have been taken on by universities in the last three years for which information is available. [83172]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Information on the number of apprentices that have been taken on by universities as staff members is not available.

Information on employment in the broader education sector is provided in the following table which shows the total number of apprenticeship programme starts in the education and training sector subject area in 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

Apprenticeship starts in the education and training sector subject area, 2007/08 to 2009/10

	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Apprenticeship starts	1,160	860	4,000

Notes:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on the number of apprentices who have progressed to university-level studies is available from Apprentice Progression Tracking Research.

For the 2005/06 cohort of Level 3 apprentices, new data show 13% progressed to higher education or Level 4 by 2008/09, This includes higher education in further education institutions and Level 4 in higher education and further education. Updated findings will be available in April 2012.

Source:

Apprentice Progression Tracking Research Project Report: Longitudinal Tracking of Advanced Level Apprentice Cohorts Progressing into Higher Education 2005/06 to 2009/10 by Sharon Smith and Hugh Joslin, July 2011

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Knowledge and Innovation Directorate allocated to *(a)* voluntary sector, *(b)* charities and *(c)* other third sector organisations in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [82952]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Assistance to the Russian Federation has been provided through the European Space Agency (ESA) using capabilities partially supported by the UK as a member of ESA. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has not offered help directly.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 21 November 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The following are answers given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), to questions from the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 31 October 2011.

9. **Matthew Hancock** (West Suffolk) (Con): What steps he is taking to help local authorities reduce the cost of their property. [77102]

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): First, let me pay tribute to my hon. Friend for his great work in the Westminster Sustainable Business Forum. Public sector assets are worth about £385 billion, almost two thirds of which are owned by councils.

Matthew Hancock: I am grateful for the Minister's reply. Is he looking forward to sending his boss along to next week's launch of the second leg of the review of how much can be saved by reforming the way property is used by local public sector agencies and local authorities, which will highlight that this is about not just bricks and mortar but increasing productivity and spending money more wisely?

Grant Shapps: I have no doubt that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will enjoy that visit enormously, especially if good food is on offer. My hon. Friend is on to something here: public sector assets are worth £385 billion, and two thirds of them are council-owned. If a saving of just 20% in running costs were made, that could save about £35 billion a year in receipts over 10 years. There is an enormous amount of money to be saved, therefore, and I commend the work that has been done.

[Official Report, 31 October 2011, Vol. 534, c. 590-91.]

Letter of correction from Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to a supplementary question on 31 October 2011. The error related to the figures on savings. The correct answer should have been:

Grant Shapps: I have no doubt that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will enjoy that visit enormously, especially if good food is on offer. My hon. Friend is on to something here: public sector assets are worth £385 billion, and two thirds of them are council-owned. **Better management of public sector assets could potentially save 20% in running costs** and £35 billion in capital receipts over 10 years. There is an enormous amount of money to be saved, therefore, and I commend the work that has been done.

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